

## Minnesota journalism in the territorial period /

### **MINNESOTA JOURNALISM IN THE TERRITORIAL PERIOD.\* BY DANIEL S. B. JOHNSTON.**

\* Read in a series of five papers at monthly meetings of the Executive Council, Feb. 10 and Nov. 10, 1902, Feb. 9 and Oct. 12, 1903, and Feb. 8, 1904.

#### **First Paper, 1849 to 1854.**

In writing this history I have tried, as far as possible, to give it compact and interesting form. Therefore I have classed the newspapers by years and dates of first issues, where obtainable, and sought to enliven their history by anecdotal, biographical, and other references to their editors, and to the rough and ready times that environed them.

#### **THE FIRST NEWSPAPER AND ITS EDITOR.**

The first newspaper printed in Minnesota was the Minnesota Pioneer. James M. Goodhue was its editor and owner. He represented the intense personal journalism of the last century in the extreme west as pointedly as James Gordon Bennett, of the New York Herald, in the extreme east.

Goodhue was born in Hebron, New Hampshire, March 31st, 1810, was graduated from Amherst College in 1832, studied law, was admitted to the bar, and practiced some time in the East and in Wisconsin, before becoming an editor. The Pioneer of April 15th, 1852, gives the following graphic description of his coming to Minnesota, then a Territory only a few days more than six weeks old.

The 18th day of April, 1849, was a raw, cloudy day. The steamboat Senator, Capt. Smith, landed at Randall's warehouse, lower landing, the only building then there except Robert's

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old store. . . . Took our press, 248 types, and printing apparatus all ashore. Went with our men to the house of Mr. Bass, corner of Third and Jackson streets. He kept the only public house in St. Paul; and it was crowded full, from cellar to garret. Mr. Bass was very obliging and did everything possible for our encouragement. The next thing was a printing office; and that it seemed impossible to obtain. Made the acquaintance of C. P. V. Lull and his partner, Gilbert. They furnished us, gratuitously, the lower story of their building for an office—the only vacant room in town. . . . The weather was cold and stormy, and our office was as open as a corn-rick. However, we picked our types up and made ready for the issue of the first paper ever printed in Minnesota or within many hundred miles of it; but upon search we found our news chase was left behind. William Nobles, blacksmith. made us a very good one after a delay of two or three days.

The paper was to be named “The Epistle of Saint Paul,” as announced in our prospectus, published in the February preceding; but we found so many little Saints in the Territory, jealous of Saint Paul, that we determined to call our paper “The Minnesota Pioneer.” One hindrance after another delayed our first issue to the 28th of April, ten days.

The uncomfortable surroundings of the editor while in the Lull building are humorously referred to in the Pioneer of June 28th, 1849. He says: “Not that we would find fault with the pigs, for it is all owing to their bringing up; but really our equanimity is somewhat ruffled, if our chair is not jostled, by the movements of their hard backs under our loose floor.” Quite a step from that rude room and its little hand press to the stately Pioneer Building and its power presses of today!

After a few weeks in the Lull building Goodhue found a better location for his office in the second story of a frame building on the south side of Third street, between Minnesota and Robert streets. It was owned by Samuel H. Sargent, who used the first story for a store. The Lull and Sargent buildings were both burned in the fire that swept lower Third street in 1860.

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The Minnesota Pioneer was a four-page, six-column sheet. A copy of the first number is in the vault of the Historical Society, It is still in a fair state of preservation, but soon will be worn out if kept in the regular files. Allow me to suggest that it be framed, with a glass on each side, and hung where it can be examined but not handled.

October 4th, 1849, Goodhue enlarged the Pioneer to seven columns, and on the 11th his brother, Isaac N. Goodhue, became junior editor. November 7th, 1850, the name of the 249 brother disappeared from the paper, and James M. Goodhue continued it alone.

As soon as possible after coming to St. Paul, Mr. Goodhue built a cheap one-story house for his family. It faced Bench (now Second) street, between Cedar and Wabasha. It was but little better than a shack. In 1850 he built a better house on St. Peter and Third streets, his garden running back towards Fourth street on the ground that the jail now occupies. After his second residence was completed, he turned the first into a printing office. This was enlarged in 1851 by annexing a barn that stood conveniently near. There the printing office remained until 1854, when it went to the southeast corner of Third and Jackson street.

Goodhue knew well how to crayon with words. More than fifty years ago he pictured in a single graphic sentence a comparison between St. Paul and St. Anthony, now Minneapolis, that still holds pointedly true—"There can be no rivalry between them any more than there can be between a steam boat and a cotton factory, or a coal barge and a trip hammer."

In the stroke of another sentence he pictured the destiny of the Indian: "Before those two great engines of civilization, the whiskey shop and the printing office, the poor Indians stand no more chance than so many Mexicans before two batteries of grape and canister."

In the issue of June 10th, 1852, he says to a young man who wants information about the churches, education, and weather of the territory: "As multiplying churches will no

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more annihilate sin than multiplying insurance offices will annihilate fires, the number of our churches affords no certain index of the degree of piety and morality attained to in St. Paul. . . . As for intellect, we have several of the greatest men of the age here; and they will own it themselves. . . . The coldest day last winter froze the mercury (but then that was owing to exposing the thermometer to the cold weather!)” Mingled with these odd announcements, Goodhue gives the young man much valuable information. Evidently he punctuated that way to make his advice more effective.

His oddly graphic way of putting things is further shown in his description of the livery stable of one of his early patrons. 250 He says: “His livery horses are none of your lank, spavined, ring-boned, foundered, half-hipped, wheezing, hoof-bound, knockkneed, gambrel-legged, sore-headed, shadowy animals that look as if they had just come limping out of the Apocalypse, the progeny of the pale horse described in the Revelation, which Death and Hell followed after.”

In his editorial correspondence to his paper he says in answer to questions about St. Paul: “The town looks as if the seed for a multitude of tenements had been scattered yesterday upon a bed of guano, and had sprouted up into cabins, and stores, and sheds, and warehouses, fresh from the sawmill since the last sun shone.” Then he went on as usual to tell what fine openings were here for everybody to come and fill.

Some one had expressed a fear of what we now call a boom and a consequent revulsion. He replies: “As to whether there will be a revulsion sometime in St. Paul, we can only say we have no doubt of it. We should expect nothing else of a town which has in it the elements of a vigorous growth; but we would not recommend the cultivation of dwarf apple trees for fear that thrifty trees might have the tips of their limbs nipped by the frosts of winter, would you?”

Such was this gifted character in his sunny moods. But when he stood, strong limbed and deep rooted, in the stress of storm, impracticable as he was, one can not help admiring the

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dauntless moral courage of the man. This is the way he saw the duty and mission of an editor in those days of careless indifference and low morality: "Let an editor slash away, —anything but salve, salve, salve, when the dissecting knife is needed. The journal that does nothing but paddle along with public opinion, without breasting the current of popular errors, is of no value—none whatever."

Charles K. Smith, the Territorial secretary, whom he blamed for delaying the pay for the Government printing he had done, was removed in 1851. As he went out of St. Paul, Goodhue gave him this characteristic parting dig: "He stole into the Territory, he stole in the Territory, and then stole out of the Territory."

The Pioneer editorial on Alexander Mitchell and David Cooper of January 16th, 1851, is a fair sample of the editorial slashings of Goodhue. Mitchell was the United States marshal, 251 and Cooper was associate justice of the Territory. Cooper, it is said, wanted to be Chief Justice. Goodhue did not like their repeated absences, nor their conduct generally. Finally he attacked them in an editorial of near a column in length. Of the marshal he said: "Since the organization of the Territory, Mitchell has not been in it long enough by a continued residence to be entitled to vote; yet he has been long enough here to be known as a man utterly destitute of moral principle, manly bearing, or even physical courage." Of Judge Cooper he said: "He is lost to all sense of decency and self-respect. Off of the Bench he is a beast, and on the Bench he is an ass, stuffed with arrogance, self-conceit, and a ridiculous affectation of dignity." He closed the editorial as follows:

We have had enough officers who are daily liable to arrest under the vagabond act; who never set a good example, perform an honest act, or pay an honest debt. We can endure much without complaint. It is less the need of a marshal and a judge that we complain of, than of the infliction of such incumbents. Feeling some resentment for the wrongs our territory has so long suffered by these men pressing upon us like a dispensation of wrath, a judgment, a curse, a plague, unequaled since the hour when Egypt went lousy, we sat

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down to write this article with some bitterness; but our very gall is honey to what they deserve.

The affidavit of John F. Tehan, printed in the Pioneer of the next week, January 23rd, states that the fight on account of this editorial occurred between Goodhue and Joseph Cooper, a brother of Judge Cooper, between eleven and twelve o'clock of Wednesday, the 15th, the Pioneer having been issued that week a day in advance of its publication day. From the affidavit it appears that Cooper acted on the offensive, and Goodhue on the defensive. Goodhue was stabbed twice, and Cooper was shot once. As Goodhue wrote for the Pioneer of February 6th nearly three columns of editorial, hardly less venomous than the one for which he was attacked, it appears that he could not have been much hurt in the affray.

The fight occurred on St. Anthony street, now Third street, in front of the lot where the Metropolitan Hotel now stands. The details are thus described by a citizen who saw it from start to finish.

On Wednesday, January 15th, Mr. Joseph Cooper and Mr. Goodhue met on St. Anthony street near the Minnesota Democrat office, and after 252 exchanging some words, each drew a pistol. They were then partially separated. Mr. Cooper gave up his pistol. Mr. Goodhue's pistol then discharged its load accidentally. Mr. Cooper then rushed upon him and struck him with his fist. Mr. Goodhue then drew another pistol, and while in the act of cocking it, was knocked down by a stone thrown by Mr. Cooper. As Goodhue was rising to his feet Cooper rushed upon him, but was seized by the arm by a bystander, and at this moment was fired upon by Goodhue, receiving the ball in the side. Cooper then broke loose from the party who held him and rushed furiously upon Goodhue, and in a moment inflicted with a dirk knife two wounds upon him, one in his abdomen and one in his side. They were then separated.

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I have given considerable space to Goodhue for I have felt that I could not bring the intensely personal journalism of the early fifties into clearer light than by letting its chief exponent speak for himself.

Joseph R. Brown became editor and proprietor of the Pioneer after the death of Goodhue in 1852. He knew him and the needs of those early times as probably no other man knew them. In his editorial tribute published September 1st, 1853, he said:

Many of his editorials would have done no discredit to the New York Herald in its most palmy days. . . The keenness and brilliancy with which he used his pen remind us of Fitz James' flashing weapon in his combat with Roderick Dhu.

"For, trained abroad his arms to wield, Fitz James' blade was sword and shield."

James M. Goodhue was a warm and fast friend of Minnesota to the day of his death. He will be remembered with the small band of sturdy men who labored constantly and with iron resolution to establish the pillars of society in our Territory upon a sound moral basis. His press was always found on the side of law, order, temperance, and virtue.

Hon. William P. Murray still lives among us, hale, hearty, and one of our best citizens. He was a forty-niner, and a personal friend of Goodhue. He says: "Goodhue's aim and object was to make St. Paul a great city, not only in good morals but in good government. He advocated with all his ability the passage of laws and ordinances for the better government of its citizens."

Goodhue died Friday evening, August 27th, 1852. He was buried in the family lot in the old part of Oakland cemetery. A fire, and the cutting of some trees, destroyed the identity of his grave. Finally, after the lapse of nearly forty-eight years, excavation of the lot uncovered what was left of the perishable 253 part of Goodhue. His brother identified the remains, and they were re-interred June 5th, 1900.

## **THE MINNESOTA CHRONICLE.**

The Minnesota Chronicle was the second newspaper printed in Minnesota. It was a four-page, seven-column, Whig paper, published weekly. Its first issue was May 31st, 1849. James Hughes, a former resident of Ohio, was its editor and proprietor.

The Minnesota Register, coming in July, made two Whig papers, while the party in the state was largely in the minority. Each continuing, one and perhaps both would starve. There was nothing to do but to consolidate. Hughes sold his plant to Mclean and Owens of the Register, and August 25th, 1849, the first number of the Chronicle and Register appeared, August 9th being the last issue of the Chronicle. It was printed in a small one-story building on the northwest corner of Fifth and Jackson streets. Hughes went to Hudson, Wisconsin, and died there in 1874.

## **THE MINNESOTA REGISTER.**

The third paper printed in Minnesota was the Minnesota Register, its date being July 14th, 1849. It was a Whig, four-page, six-column sheet. An earlier number of the Register was printed in Cincinnati, Ohio, dated Saturday, April 27th, 1849, though Saturday was really April 28th, and was sent to St. Paul by steamboat for distribution. Dr. A. Randall, the editor, did not follow it. He started for California by overland route instead, having taken a position under Col. Collier, collector of the port of San Francisco.

Under date of September 22nd, 1849, the Cincinnati Commercial reported that Randall had been killed in a fight in the Rocky mountains, over some kind of mineral. He was killed by a man who went from near Hamilton, Ohio.

Randall was well known in Minnesota, having been connected with Prof. David Dale Owen's geological survey of the Northwest. It seems that he went to Cincinnati in the fall of 1848 to buy a printing press and material; but winter caught him, and in the spring Goodhue got here first. Placing the outfit with John P. Owens, his partner, Randall started



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for California, disposing of his interest in it to Nathaniel McLean while on his way. This was done by letter from Fort Leavenworth 254 under date of May 17th, 1849. Accordingly, the issue of July 14th had N. McLean and J. P. Owens at its head.

The Register was run until August 18th, 1849, when, a consolidation having been effected with the Chronicle, also a Whig paper, the name was changed to Minnesota Chronicle and Register, a four-page, seven-column issue, with Hughes and Owens as editors and proprietors. This would indicate that McLean had stepped out, but it seems that he was not in the Territory when the union of the papers was made. He arrived soon afterward, however, and approved it; but I find no explanation made of the absence of his name from the first number of the combination.

After the arrival of McLean, a proposition to sell or buy was made to Hughes. Hughes sold, and August 25th the paper appeared, with McLean, Owens, and Quay, editors and publishers, Quay having been the printer of the Chronicle. September 15th the name of Quay disappeared from the combination, and McLean and Owens became editors and publishers of the paper. August 12th, 1850, L. A. Babcock purchased it. He, in turn, sold to Charles J. Henniss. The transfer was made November 25th, 1850. He ran it until February 10th, 1851, when a reference to a circular issued to Whigs, expressing dissatisfaction with Henniss, appeared in the paper, and it was sold and absorbed by the Minnesota Democrat. Henniss was collector of the port of St. Paul from 1851 to 1853. He died February 14th, 1856.

The Register was first printed on St. Anthony (now Third) street, nearly opposite the head of Hill street. In 1851 it moved into a building then standing partly on the ground that the Metropolitan Hotel now occupies. It later moved into the stone building owned by Col. D. A. Robertson on the present site of the McQuillan Block, at the northeast corner of Third and Wabasha streets, having been merged into the Minnesota Democrat as before noted.

### **NATHANIEL M'LEAN.**

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Major Nathaniel McLean was born in Morris County, New Jersey, May 16th, 1787. He was a brother of Judge John McLean of the United States Supreme Court, and an officer in the War of 1812. He began his journalistic career in Ohio where he was editor and publisher of the Western Star, at Lebanon, about the year 1811. From 1810 to 1820 he represented 255 his district in the Ohio legislature. McLean purchased the interest of Dr. Randall in the Minnesota Register in May, 1849, and John P. Owens brought the press and material to St. Paul, and in July began its publication. McLean, detained by illness, did not get here until about the middle of August.

Nov. 3rd, 1849, McLean was appointed agent of the Sioux Indians at Fort Snelling, and August 12th, 1850, when Babcock bought the Chronicle and Register, McLean bid farewell to journalism. He held the office of Indian agent until the spring of 1853. He was one of the most prominent of the Whigs in those days, and a fine man in every sense of the word. He died in St. Paul, April 11th, 1871, in the eighty-fourth year of his age.

### **JOHN P. OWENS.**

John P. Owens was another unique creator of Minnesota journalism. In his genial, blunt, and careless ways he resembled Goodhue. His humorous description of the wedding of the Pioneer and Democrat, printed November 2nd, 1855, in the Minnesotian, is equal to the best that Goodhue ever wrote. He could hold his own in the personal journalistic scraps of those days, also, with the best of them, as is shown in his article of September 24th, 1851, in the Minnesotian, headed "Orful Times." Captain Dodd, one of those against whom it was aimed, knocked him down and beat him severely for it a few days after. His bitter attack upon Col. D. A. Robertson in the issue of the Minnesotian of November 13th, 1851, was a severely caustic arraignment of a journalistic opponent.

Mr. Owens was born in Dayton, Ohio, January 6th, 1818, was educated in Woodward College, Cincinnati, and afterward learned the printer's trade, but early turned to journalism. He was an ardent Whig, and in the celebrated Harrison campaign of 1840 did

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his party effective service, in burlesquing Ohio Democratic meetings, over the name of Joe Davis. He came to St Paul in the latter part of May, 1849, bringing the printing outfit of the Minnesota Register, of which he was part owner. Major McLean, as already mentioned, did not come until the following August. In the meantime Owens went ahead and got out the Register, the first issue printed in the Territory being July 14th.

In 1862 Mr. Owens was appointed quartermaster of the Ninth Minnesota Infantry, and served until discharged in 1865. 256 being meantime commissioned a colonel. In 1869 he was appointed register of the United States Land Office at Taylor's Falls. Minnesota, and died there on the 11th of September, 1884.

### **THE DAKOTA FRIEND.**

The fourth newspaper venture started in Minnesota was the Dakota Friend. It was a monthly missionary paper printed half in English and half in the Dakota language. It began in 1850 and lasted about two years. Rev. Gideon L. Pond was its editor. Of this paper Goodhue said in the Pioneer of March 6th, 1851: "The little press of the Chronicle office has been horribly twisted and distorted by printing the crooked Sioux dialect of The Friend."

### **THE MINNESOTA DEMOCRAT.**

The fifth paper started in Minnesota was the Minnesota Democrat. It was a four-page, seven-column weekly, owned and edited by Col. D. A. Robertson. The date of its first issue was December 10th, 1850. It was started in the interest of one of the Democratic factions of that day. Hennis of the Whig Chronicle and Register, and Robertson of the Democrat, combined their forces against Goodhue of the Pioneer, to get the public printing. Goodhue won, and soon afterward Henniss sold his press and material to Robertson.

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The Democrat was first published in the same building with the Chronicle and Register, where the Metropolitan Hotel (formerly the Winslow House) now stands. In 1851 it was moved to Col. Robertson's new building at the northeast corner of Third and Wabasha streets. June 29th, 1853, Robertson sold the paper to David Olmsted, who, on May 1st, 1854, began the publication of a four-page, six-column, evening daily.

September 6th, 1854, Charles L. Emerson purchased the Democrat, and ran it until August 11th, 1855, when he sold to Joseph R. Brown, from whom Earle S. Goodrich had purchased the Pioneer in March of the preceding year. October 31st, 1855, the two papers were consolidated, and, on November 1st, the first number of the Pioneer and Democrat was issued, a combination which lasted until September 5th, 1862, when Mr. Goodrich severed the hyphenated connection and the paper became the St. Paul Pioneer. The combination owners of the Pioneer and Democrat were Earle S. Goodrich, Joseph R. Brown, and Frederick Somers of New York.

### **THE PIONEER AND DEMOCRAT.**

Earle S. Goodrich bought the St. Paul Pioneer of Joseph R. Brown in March, 1854, and May 1st of that year began the issue of the Daily Pioneer. In October, 1855, the Pioneer was united with the Minnesota Democrat under the name of Pioneer and Democrat, as above stated. In 1861 Mr. Goodrich became the sole owner. He then associated his brothers, Augustus J. and Frank Goodrich, with him; and in 1862 he entered the army on staff duty with the rank of captain, retaining his interest in the paper.

September 5th, 1862, the name of the paper was changed to the St. Paul Pioneer. In November, 1865, the Pioneer was sold to William F. Davidson, John X. Davidson, and Harlan P. Hall, and became Republican in politics. It ran under the firm name of Davidson and Hall until the following June, Mr. Hall being the editor. Mr. Hall then sold his share to his partners, and they, in turn, sold to the Pioneer Printing Company, composed of Capt. H. L. Carver, C. W. Nash, and others, and the Pioneer again became Democratic.

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In March, 1872, the Pioneer Printing Company sold to William S. King. E. E. Paulding was editor until his death in 1873, when A. J. Lamberton was given general charge by Colonel King. In 1874 David Blakeley purchased the paper, and on April 11th, 1875, united it with the St. Paul Press under the present title of Pioneer Press, and the paper became Republican in politics. In this arrangement, J. A. Wheelock, editor of the Press, was associated with Mr. Blakeley in editorial charge of the Pioneer Press, and Frederick Driscoll of the Press became business manager.

The St. Paul Press was started by William R. Marshall. He bought the St. Paul Times, January 1st, 1861, at the time he began the St. Paul Press, and merged it in the Press. January 27th, 1861, he bought the Minnesotian, which in turn was also merged in the Press.

In 1876 the Pioneer Press bought the Minneapolis Tribune and the Mail, and for a time the name of the paper was changed to the Pioneer Press and Tribune, and the Mail was run as an evening paper in Minneapolis. In 1877 Mr. Blakeley sold out of 17 258 the Pioneer Press, bought the Mail, became its editor, and changed its name to the Evening Tribune. It afterward became a morning paper and is now the Minneapolis Tribune.

The Pioneer Press ran under Wheelock and Driscoll until a few years ago, when Mr. Driscoll retired; but Mr. Wheelock still remains its editor-in-chief.

### **COLONEL D. A. ROBERTSON.**

Daniel A. Robertson was born in Pictou, Nova Scotia, May 13th, 1813. He was educated as a lawyer and was admitted to practice in 1839; but, like Goodhue, he soon abandoned the profession for journalism. He was owner and editor of the Mt. Vernon (Ohio) Democrat in 1843, and in 1844 became editor of the Cincinnati Enquirer. In 1846 he was appointed United States marshal in Ohio, served four years, and in 1850 came to St. Paul and started the Democrat as already stated. He was appointed a colonel in the state militia in

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1858; was a member of the Minnesota legislature in 1859–60; and afterward was elected sheriff of Ramsey county and served four years.

October 4th, 1866, Colonel Robertson organized the Fruit Growers' Association, the parent of the Minnesota Horticultural Society, and was elected its first president. He was one of the first to introduce fruit culture into Minnesota, and the very first to draw attention to sections of Russia similar in climate to ours, and to advocate getting fruit scions from such localities. From this far-sighted advice some of the best varieties of apples now cultivated in Minnesota have resulted. In politics Colonel Robertson was known as an Independent Democrat. He was able, fearless, and quite as virulent in his personal journalistic attacks upon political opponents as Goodhue or John P. Owens. His article of September 30th, 1851, on Owens is as caustic as anything Goodhue ever wrote. He died in St. Paul, March 16th, 1895.

### **DAVID OLMSTED.**

David Olmsted, who followed Robertson as owner and editor of the Democrat, merits more than a passing notice. He was born in Fairfax, Vermont, May 5th, 1822. He came west when young and was elected from Clayton County, Iowa, to the Iowa Constitutional Convention in the fall of 1845, when in the twenty-fourth year of his age. In the fall of 1847 he went into 259 the Winnebago Indian trade at Fort Atkinson, Iowa; and in the summer of 1848, when the Winnebagoes were removed to Long Prairie, Minnesota, he went with them. He established a trading house there and also at St. Paul.

August 7th, 1849, he was elected a member of the first Territorial Council of Minnesota, was chosen its president, and was also a member of the Council of 1851. In 1853 he purchased the Minnesota Democrat and became its editor, as previously stated; April 4th, 1854, he was elected the first mayor of St. Paul. In 1855 he removed to Winona and became involved in the triangular contest between Rice, Olmsted, and Marshall, for Territorial delegate to Congress, in which he was defeated by Henry M. Rice. Shortly

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afterward his health began to fail, and he died in his old home in Vermont, February 2nd, 1861. Olmsted was a Democrat of the old school, an able, upright man, and one of the leaders in the formative period of Minnesota.

### **THE WATAB REVEILLE.**

The sixth newspaper in order of date, was the Watab Reveille, which purported to be edited by J. W. "Chaskarack," and to be published at Watab, Benton County, "Chaskarack" was J. W. Vincent, who came here with Cole Martin, whom many of our pioneer residents will remember. The paper never saw Watab. It was printed and circulated by Charles J. Henniss from the office of the Chronicle and Register.

The first issue was dated January 13th, 1851. It was a small, four-column sheet, and only three or four numbers seem to be in existence. In the first number "Chaskarack" says: "In politics we shall be Democratic or Whig, just as may best serve our interests: In this respect we are aware that we differ from some of our contemporaries in this territory who have been long Working for the good of the public, a party, the territory, etc.; but we wish it distinctly understood that we enter upon this enterprise with an eye single to the loaves and fishes. We are after the public printing, and everything else out of which money can be made."

The editor did not secure the public printing. It seems also that in some way Governor Ramsey had displeased him, for, in the list of the eight leaders of the Whig party that he published, the name of the governor appears at the foot of the list in agate type, nearly the smallest known, and without the dignity of 260 even a capital letter, while that of D. B. Loomis, of Stillwater, stands at the head of the list in the largest type used on his advertising page.

The chief performance of "Chaskarack" remembered by the old settlers is a visit he made to the Legislature one day when he was as full as even the customs of those early days permitted. In some way he got into the Speaker's chair and undertook to run the House.

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It was rare fun for some of the members, but others didn't like it and sent for the soldiers. "Chaskarack," hearing of this, scattered a pocketful of silver broadcast over the floor, saying, "Here's your pay. The House is adjourned."

Vincent died in St. Paul in March, 1852.

### **THE ST. ANTHONY EXPRESS.**

One day in April, 1851, Elmer Tyler, a tailor of St. Anthony, proposed to Isaac Atwater, a young attorney, to buy a press and start a newspaper if Atwater would edit it. His reason for doing this was that the two sides of the river at the falls would one day have ten thousand people, and he thought it was time to make St. Anthony better known. Atwater considered the idea preposterous, but finally consented to edit the paper if Tyler would buy the outfit and run it. That was the beginning of the St. Anthony Express, the seventh newspaper started in Minnesota.

Tyler got everything ready, and Atwater began to write his editorials. It was a four-page, seven-column, Whig paper, published weekly, and its first issue was May 31st, 1851. The Express was the first paper printed in Minnesota outside of St. Paul. Tyler soon got out beyond his depth. Atwater then had to advance money to keep the venture afloat. Tyler soon quit, and Atwater had the paper on his hands. August 2nd, 1851, Woodbury and Hollister succeeded him as publishers. May 28th, 1852, George D. Bowman arrived from Pennsylvania, and Atwater arranged with him to edit the paper so that he could have more time to devote to his rapidly increasing law business.

August 5th, 1855, Atwater resumed control of the Express, and the politics of the paper became Democratic. March 29th, 1856, D. S. B. Johnston became associate editor, his first editorial being entitled "Parties and Factions." His name does not appear in the paper, however, until August 23rd, 1856, his Democracy being on trial. In August, 1857, D. S. B. Johnston and 261 Charles H. Slocum purchased the paper from Judge Atwater, Johnston becoming editor, and SloCum publisher. In the fall of 1860 Slocum retired and Johnston



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went on alone until the latter part of May, 1861. Then the Express carried Johnston under the waves that followed the hard times of 1857; and, since he "came up," Minnesota journalism, until he began this series of papers, interested him no more.

The wrecked outfit was sold to Hon. John L. MacDonald, of Shakopee, who started the Shakopee Argus with it. Johnston lost nearly four years of time that were pretty valuable in those hustling days, and Atwater says he is still about three thousand dollars short on the venture.

### **HON. ISAAC ATWATER.**

Hon. Isaac Atwater was graduated from Yale College, and studied law, in which he has taken high rank. He was elected associate justice of the Supreme Court at the first election held after Minnesota became a state, and still resides in Minneapolis, universally respected by all who know him. Journalism was more of a recreation from the onerous exactions of his profession than otherwise, and proved about as profitable as Horace Greeley's farming. He was an easy, fluent, effective writer; and Major Hotchkiss, doubtless, still feels the sting of many a keen shaft that came across the river from the editorial sanctum in St. Anthony.

### **GEORGE D. BOWMAN.**

George D. Bowman was born in Wilkesbarre, Pa., March 11th, 1827; was educated at Bloomsburg (Pa.) Academy; and edited the first paper published in Schuylkill county. He came to Minnesota May 28th, 1852, and became editor of the St. Anthony Express, as already stated. He was afterward connected with the Atlas of Minneapolis. Returning to Pennsylvania in 1861, he established the Clinton County Republican at Lock Haven, Pa. He was then appointed register of the U. S. Land Office at Mesilla, New Mexico, and afterward went into the banking business at Las Cruces, N. M., the firm being George D. Bowman and Sons. He died at Las Cruces, April 27th, 1903.

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It has been said that Charles Hoag first suggested the name Minneapolis for the west side of the river at St. Anthony Falls, instead of Albion, which the county commissioners of Hennepin 262 county had selected. An interview with Daniel L. Payne, who at that time was working on the St. Anthony Express, was published shortly before the death of Payne a few years ago. In this interview Payne said that during a meeting called at the office of Col. John H. Stevens, to see if a better name than Albion could be found, Colonel Stevens suggested that Minnehaha be compounded with the Greek word polis in some way. Bowman suggested dropping "ha" from the combination, making the name Minnehapolis. Payne advised dropping the other "ha," leaving Minnepolis. The conference ended by taking "hah" from Minnehaha and attaching polis. Minneapolis was the result. The combination of polis with Minnehaha was no doubt first suggested by Charles Hoag and seconded by Colonel Stevens: but the exact way in which the combination was made was probably as stated by Payne. Bowman advocated the name so persistently that it was finally adopted.

### **D. S. B. JOHNSTON.**

I suppose it is due to a correct account of early journalism and its editors that I should sketch my own history. I was born in South Bainbridge (now Afton), New York, May 17th, 1832; prepared for the Hamilton College sophomore year at the Delaware Literary Institute in Franklin, Delaware county, New York; but, instead of entering college, began teaching school in 1849, and continued teaching in my home county, Chenango, until the spring of 1855.

I came to St. Paul July 20th, 1855, and shortly afterward opened a select school on ground subsequently occupied by the Minneapolis Exposition building in St. Anthony (now the east part of Minneapolis); became connected with the St. Anthony Express in March, 1856, and was afterward its half owner: began the insurance business in 1864, and followed that until 1874; then organized a farm loan business, which was incorporated in 1885, with \$300,000 capital. We loaned about two and a half million dollars for eastern

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investors In 1898, upon our purchase of nearly 477,000 acres of Northern Pacific Railroad lands, the company became a land company exclusively, under the name of D. S. B. Johnston Land Company. Of this I am president, and my two sons, Charles L. Johnston and A. D. S. Johnston, are vice president and secretary.

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### **THE MINNESOTIAN.**

The Minnesotian was the eighth newspaper begun in the Territory. The first issue was dated September 17th, 1851, and was printed in a small building at the corner of Fifth and Jackson streets, where the Galena House was afterward built. It was owned by a company. John P. Owens, formerly associated with Major McLean in running the Chronicle and Register, became the editor, and John C. Terry publisher. It was a four-page, seven-column paper, and as intensely Whig as the papers of Goodhue and Colonel Robertson were Democratic in politics.

The issue of January 10th, 1852, had George W. Moore associated, and the management was Owens and Moore. Owens was editor, and Moore business manager. This paper was first published in the little Chronicle office on Fifth street, corner of Jackson, but in 1853 was removed to the northeast corner of Cedar and Third streets. Here May 11th, 1854, the Daily Minnesotian, a seven-column paper, was issued. May 22nd, 1854, H. P. Pratt became equally interested with Owens and Moore in the publication of the Minnesotian, but Pratt died May 8th, 1855. May 11th, 1857, the daily enlarged to eight columns; and Oct. 19th Dr. Thomas Foster purchased the interest of Owens and the management became Foster and Moore. January 1st, 1858, the daily went back to seven columns; and May 11th, following, it resumed its eight-column edition. November 25th, 1858, J. Fletcher Williams, afterward secretary of the Minnesota Historical Society, became local editor of the paper.

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December 17th, 1859, the Minnesotian and Times consolidated, the Minnesotian and Times Printing Company being proprietors, and Newson, Moore, Foster and Co., publishers. Eight columns was the size of the consolidated paper, and the concern moved from the corner of Third and Minnesota streets to the old Post Office building on Bridge Square. March 15th, 1860, the combination dropped to six columns, because, as it says in that issue, 31 Democrats and 16 Republicans had agreed to give the state printing to Holly and Brown. June 21st, 1860, notice of dissolution of the combination Minnesotian and Times was published by the Times, with the statement that the Times would thereafter be published and edited by T. M. Newson, the same as before the consolidation, and that the Minnesotian joint stock 264 company, with Thomas poster as agent and eidtor, would also continue, George W. Moore having retired.

The two papers were thus separately run in the two stories below the street level in the old Post Office building until January 1st, 1861, when the material of the Times was purchased by William R Marshall, and on January 27th the material of the Minnesotian. The plants of both were used to start the St. Paul Press. The Minnesotian closes the record of newspapers established during 1851.

### **DR. THOMAS FOSTER.**

Dr. Foster was born May 18th, 1818, in Philadelphia, Pa. He was educated as a physician, but early abandoned the medical for the editorial profession. In 1836, when eighteen years old, he became editor of the Wilkesbarre Advocate, a Whig paper. In 1837 he returned to Philadelphia, and became news editor of the Philadelphia Public Ledger. After leaving that paper, he served in various journalistic capacities, until 1848, when he became secretary of the Pennsylvania State Committee, of which Hon. Alexander Ramsey was chairman. On President Taylor's election he was made secretary of the Electoral College, and when Mr. Ramsey was appointed the first Territorial Governor of Minnesota, Foster went with him as his private secretary.

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August 21st, 1851, Dr. Foster made a claim to government land near Hastings, Minnesota. He was the first man to settle there after the treaty was made with the Sioux Indians at Mendota. Afterward, for a time he was physician to the Upper Sioux, with location near Sleepy Eve village. October 19th, 1857, he purchased the interest of John P. Owens in the Minnesotian of St. Paul, and remained its editor until January 27th, 1861, when the plant was purchased by William R. Marshall and combined with the Times, as has been stated, to start the St. Paul Press, which is now a part of the Pioneer Press.

Dr. Foster was a delegate to the convention to frame the constitution of the State of Minnesota, being the only Republican chosen from Ramsey county. At the second state election, when Alexander Ramsey was elected governor, Dr. Foster again became his private secretary. During the war, Dr. Foster was assistant commissary of subsistence, and was stationed most of the time at Indianapolis, Indiana. After the war, he returned to 265 Minnesota, and was for a time editor of the Chronicle of Minneapolis. He was chairman of the Republican State Central Committee of Minnesota, in 1857, edited the St. Paul Dispatch during the campaign of 1868, and shortly afterward established the Duluth Minnesotian.

After remaining in Duluth several years, he entered the United States service, and had several important appointments; but during President Cleveland's second administration he was summarily removed for "offensive partisanship." After President McKinley was elected, he was reinstated; and finally, on September 20th, 1897, he was put in charge of the stationery division, under Henry A. Castle, auditor of the Post Office Department, at Washington. He resigned the position September 20th, 1902, and died in San Francisco, California, March 31st, 1903, at the age of eighty-five years.

T. M. Newson, who owned and edited the St. Paul Times in the fifties, and who had considerable to do with Dr. Foster in a business way, calls him in his "Pen Pictures" an "editorial tyrant." Newson, however, was a pretty positive character himself. The two couldn't agree, and when they came together the sparks flew. Governor Ramsey got along

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easily enough with Dr. Foster, and so did everyone else who saw the good in him and kept clear of his sharp corners. Whatever might be said of him personally, he was a man of marked ability, and contributed largely to the establishment of the Republican party in Minnesota.

### **J. FLETCHER WILLIAMS.**

John Fletcher Williams was born September 25th, 1834. He was educated in Woodward College and the Ohio Wesleyan University; came to St. Paul in 1855; and was reporter and city editor of different St. Paul dailies during the following twelve years. For a short time he was private secretary of Governor Miller, and from 1864 to 1871 he was a member of the Board of Education of St. Paul. From 1871 to 1876 he was a member of the United States Centennial Commission from Minnesota. He also held many responsible offices among, the Odd Fellows. In 1876 he wrote a history of St. Paul, which in chronicling leading events is very useful. In 1867 he was elected secretary of the Minnesota Historical Society, in which office he continued until September 11th, 1893, when he resigned on account of ill health. He died April 28th, 1895.

Mr. Williams never learned the meaning of the little word "rest." Work wore him out at sixty-one, when he ought to have lived till eighty.

### **THE NORTHWESTERN DEMOCRAT.**

The Northwestern Democrat was the ninth Minnesota paper, and the only one started in 1853. It began its existence in St. Anthony. Prescott and Jones were its editors and proprietors. The first issue was dated July 13th, 1853. It was a four-page, six-column; Democratic weekly. May 24th, 1854, it was enlarged to seven columns.

August 2nd, 1854, it was sold to W. Augustus Hotchkiss, who on August 19th moved it to Minneapolis, because, as he said, he wanted to print the first newspaper published west of the river. July 5th, 1856, he endorsed Fremont and Dayton, the Republican

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candidates for President and Vice President. July 19th, he changed the name to Minnesota Democrat; and on August 1st, 1857, he enlarged it to eight columns, and placed the motto "Thoroughly Jeffersonian" at its head.

October 17, 1857, is the date of the last number in the library of the Historical Society. It shortly afterward passed into the hands of Joel B. Bassett, who sold it to W. F. Russell of Shakopee. Russell moved to Minneapolis, and changed the name to the Gazette. It ran about a year, when the press and material went back to Bassett. In 1858 C. H. Pettit and John G. Williams bought the outfit and with it started the Minneapolis Journal, which in 1859 was absorbed in the Atlas by W. S. King.

### **W. AUGUSTUS HOTCHKISS.**

Like others of us in early days, Hotchkiss was considered cranky in some of his editorial notions. No one, however, can gainsay his honesty and patriotism. He served in the Third United States Artillery in the Mexican War, and at the outbreak of the Rebellion he was on hand again. He was mustered in as a private, October 10th, 1861; but was commissioned captain of the Second Battery of Minnesota Light Artillery shortly afterward, and commanded it to the close of the war. December 28th, 1866, he became editor of the Preston Republican; 267 and the next year he was its proprietor, and is still running it.

### **JOSEPH R. BROWN.**

Although the year 1853 brought only one new paper into existence, it marked the advent into Minnesota journalism of one of the best equipped, all-around politicians that this or any other country has ever seen. A runaway fourteen-year-old drummer boy in the Fifth Infantry under Colonel Leavenworth in 1819 at Fort Snelling, honorably discharged from military service in 1825, beginning the life of a frontier Indian trader, first on the Minnesota river, about a mile above Fort Snelling, later trading at the mouth of the St. Croix, and later still at Gray Cloud island, about fifteen miles below St. Paul, Joseph R. Brown began thus a foundation of good influence over the Sioux Indians that lasted while he lived. In 1840

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he laid out a townsite, which he named Dakotah, about a mile-above the present site of Stillwater. He also bought from a discharged soldier the first claim ever made in St. Paul, embracing what is now Kittson's Addition, for which he paid \$150. He afterward laid out the town of Henderson on the Minnesota river.

In 1841 he was elected representative to the Wisconsin Legislature from Crawford county, which then comprised the whole country between the St. Croix and Mississippi rivers. He served three terms in the Legislature of Wisconsin Territory, and was a leading member of the Stillwater Convention, called August 26th, 1848, to elect a delegate and to formulate plans for the organization of the Territory of Minnesota. He was secretary of the first Legislative Council of the Territory, of which David Olmsted was president; was a member in 1851; chief clerk in 1853; member of the Council again in 1855; of the House in 1857; and member of the Constitutional Convention in 1857.

He bought the Pioneer in 1853 after the death of Goodhue, and became one of the ablest editors it has ever had. Fitted by nature for high places in civilized life, he was married to an Indian woman, and was continually going back to the wild life of the Indian tepee; but he bore plainly the stamp of nobility of leadership wherever he went.

In the Sioux Indian War in 1862, Brown was commissioned a major, was wounded at the battle of Birch Coulie, and did excellent service in bringing the Sioux into subjection and securing the punishment of the leaders of that severe outbreak. This was Joseph Renshaw Brown, a man who in history will always hold a foremost place in the work of shaping the foundations of Minnesota. He was born January 5th, 1805, and died the 9th of November, 1870.

### **EARLE S. GOODRICH.**

Earle S. Goodrich, the successor of Joseph R. Brown, was born in Genesee county, New York, July 27th, 1827. He had some editorial experience in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, at the age of twenty-one, and then became one of the county officers of Brown county, In 1854



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he bought the St. Paul Pioneer, as before stated, and for nearly ten years stood in the front rank of Western journalists. He then went into the army and became aid to General McClellan. Resigning his commission, he purchased the St. Paul gas works; and after selling out of that, he engaged in railroad construction. He now spends a considerable portion of his time in St. Paul.

He had no use for the coarse battle axe style of newspaper editing, so common when he came here. He was a gentleman journalist. The bright polished rapier was his style of weapon, and his antagonists always found it ground to a keen razor edge.

### **JAMES MILLS.**

James Mills, now editor-in-chief of the Pittsburg Post, began his journalistic career on that paper in the early fifties. While its local editor, he left the Post in December, 1854, and after a lumber wagon trip of ten days from Dubuque. Iowa, he reached St. Paul and was immediately engaged as associate editor of the Minnesota Democrat, then owned and edited by Joseph R. Brown. When the Democrat was united with the Pioneer in October, 1855. Mr. Mills went with it and became associated with Mr. Goodrich in editing the Pioneer and Democrat. He remained in that capacity until 1863, when he engaged with the Chicago Times under Wilbur F. Story. Soon afterward he became connected with the New York World as its southwest war correspondent in Tennessee and Alabama. After the war, he returned to his old home in Pittsburg and became editor of the Pittsburg Post, where he has lately celebrated the fiftieth year of his connection with that paper.

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Mr. Mills gave abundant proof, while here, of the editorial capacity which has since carried him into the front ranks of journalism, and he is remembered warmly by all the Minnesota "old timers" who were so fortunate as to know him.

### **LOUIS E. FISHER.**

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Louis E. Fisher was born at Wrentham, Mass., July 15th, 1822. He learned the printing business in Boston, and from 1849 to 1853 was foreman and reporter on the Boston Daily Advertiser. He came to St. Paul in April, 1854, and helped to get out the first issue of the Daily Pioneer, May 1st, 1854. He became foreman of the Pioneer, then city editor, then news editor. After the retirement of James Mills, in 1861, he succeeded him as assistant editor, and finally became managing editor, in which position he remained until the Pioneer was sold to Davidson and Hall and changed from Democratic to Republican in politics. This did not suit the Democrat proclivities of Fisher. He then became assistant editor of the Daily Press, but the next year, when the Pioneer went back to the Democrats, he became its editor-in-chief, and thus remained nearly up to the consolidation of the Pioneer with the St. Paul Press in 1875.

After the two papers were united, he remained assistant editor to Mr. Wheelock for some time, until advancing years made it necessary to take an easier position in another department of the paper, where he remained until his death on March 18th, 1888.

Honest, level-headed, and true as a die in all the relations of life, Louis E. Fisher lived; and only kind thoughts followed him across the dark river, when he died.

### **THE BOOM OF 1854.**

After the advent of the Northwestern Democrat in 1853, came the boom times of 1854, which culminated in the dark financial disasters of 1857. Like town lots, the newspapers felt the inflation. May 1st, 1854, the Pioneer, then owned by Earle S. Goodrich, boomed into a four-page, six-column daily. The Daily Democrat of equal size, under David Olmsted, who bought the weekly from Robertson in June of 1853, and who had just been elected the first mayor of St. Paul, was issued the same day. Next came the Daily Minnesotian, a four-page, seven-column paper, 270 dated May 11th, and the Daily Times, a five-column sheet, came a close fourth on May 15th.

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Then began the hopeless struggle of two Democratic and two Republican dailies for existence in St. Paul. The next year the Pioneer and Democrat wisely combined. The Minnesotian and Times held out until 1859, when they also tried it, but too late. Both furnished food for the vigorous young St. Paul Press, William R. Marshall's paper, which later was combined in turn with the Pioneer, becoming the present Pioneer Press.

### **THE MINNESOTA TIMES.**

The Minnesota Times was the tenth newspaper established in Minnesota. The Daily Times began a four-page, five-column sheet, May 15th, 1854. The Weekly Times followed on the 23rd. T. M. Newson was editor, and T. M. Newson and Co., consisting of Newson, J. B. H. Mitchell, and Martin J. Clum, were proprietors and publishers. The paper was Free Soil Independent, but afterward became Republican in politics. The Weekly ran four pages of seven columns each. It was first printed in a stone building on Third street, opposite Franklin street. It was a three-story building, and Newson nearly covered the front and east side with enormous signs. In 1856 the plant was taken into the McClung block on Bridge Square, and there remained until it joined the Minnesotian in 1859, when it moved over to the old Post Office building on the same square. After this combination was broken Newson continued the Times until January 1st, 1861, when it was merged in the St. Paul Press, and Newson gave the venture a good send off in its first issue.

### **THOMAS M. NEWSON.**

With T. M. Newson politics meant principle. He was a good journalist, an able, efficient writer, and, although he seldom took the initiative in the personal journalistic broils of those days, he never ran or came out second best when either he or his party was forced into them. He was born February 22nd, 1827, in New York City, and in 1847 started the first paper published at Birmingham, Conn. He came to St. Paul in 1853, and for about six months was associate editor with Joseph R. Brown on the Pioneer. In the Daily Times of June 21st, 1860, a statement was made by Mr. Newson to the effect that a meeting

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was held in an upper 271 room in St. Anthony early in 1855, and that out of it grew the Republican party of Minnesota. The Times then began its Republican career.

After the material of the Times was purchased by Governor Marshall, Newson went into the army as commissary of subsistence, became assistant quartermaster and was brevetted major for meritorious conduct. He, like John P. Owens, refused all opportunities to enrich himself at public expense, and came out of the service a poor man. Say what we may of the early Minnesota editors in other respects, none of them died, as far as I know, with marks of the dishonest dollar upon them. Major Newson was appointed by President Harrison consul to Malaga, Spain, and died at his post March 30th, 1893.

### **THE MINNESOTA REPUBLICAN.**

The eleventh newspaper was the Minnesota Republican of St. Anthony. It was a four-page, seven-column, Republican sheet, owned by a board of about sixty stockholders, of which Dr. V. Fell was secretary. Rev. Charles G. Ames was editor, and Daniel L. Payne, publisher. The first paper was issued October 5th, 1854. January 1st, 1857, the paper was enlarged to eight columns, and September 10th, 1857, it was sold to W. A. Croffut and Edwin Clark, and Ames retired, leaving Croffut as editor and Clark as publisher.

January 7th, 1859, Croffut and Clark changed the name to Minnesota State News. November 5th, 1859, Croffut sold his interest to Uriah Thomas. April 7th, 1860, the News was reduced to seven columns; and finally, early in November, 1863, it was sold to William S. King, and was merged in the Atlas of Minneapolis.

### **REV. CHARLES G. AMES.**

Rev. Charles G. Ames came to Minnesota as a missionary of the Free Will Baptist Church in June, 1851. He built a church in Minneapolis, and became its minister. Restive under the restrictions of its creed, he resigned and became a Unitarian. He then entered the political field, and was elected register of deeds of Hennepin county for 1857 and 1858.

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In 1861 he was appointed consul for Porto Rico. In later years he went back to the pulpit, and has been pastor of some of the largest Unitarian churches 272 in the East. Ames took an active part in Kansas and Nebraska politics as an ultra antislavery advocate. He was a brilliant speaker, an able editor, and a thoroughly conscientious man.

### **THE ST. PAUL FINANCIAL AND REAL ESTATE ADVERTISER.**

The St. Paul Financial and Real Estate Advertiser rounded out the dozen of Minnesota newspapers. It was begun November 3rd, 1854, by Charles H. Parker, a banker of St. Paul. It was a three-column weekly. The disproportion of size and name reminds one of Lincoln's description of the little steamboat that had a whistle so large that when it blew the boat had to stop. Joseph A. Wheelock, who for many years has been chief editor of the Pioneer Press, was associated with Parker as editor of the paper. December 27th, 1856, the name was economized to The St. Paul Advertiser, and the size increased to a four-page, six-column sheet. June 13th, 1857, it was further enlarged to seven columns. July 18th. E. S. Barrows became associated as editor, and the next week Wheelock became part proprietor. June 19th, 1858, the paper was sold to the Pioneer and discontinued.

### **JOSEPH A. WHEELOCK.**

Joseph A. Wheelock was born in Nova Scotia in 1831; came to St. Paul in 1850; began his editorial career in the Advertiser in 1854, and remained with it until 1858: became associate editor of the Pioneer and Democrat in 1859; was Minnesota commissioner of statistics in 1860; helped Governor Marshall to establish the St. Paul Press in 1861, and finally became its editor-in-chief; was appointed postmaster of St. Paul on May 4th, 1870; was one of the five commissioners who selected our beautiful Como Park; and has been for some years president of the St. Paul Park Board, where he has done the city inestimable service.

When I first saw him in 1856, I thought he would be in a consumptive's grave in less than a year. That was forty-eight years ago. He has been almost continually in editorial harness

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since that time, and I don't know but that the will last forty-eight years longer. Certainly he does not yet need anybody to write his editorials for him.

### **THE ST. CROIX UNION.**

The thirteenth Minnesota newspaper was the St. Croix Union. It was begun in Stillwater on November 7th, 1854: was a 273 four-page, seven-column weekly, Democratic in politics, F. S. Cable was its editor, and Cable and Easton its publishers.

May 12th, 1855, Abbott and Easton succeeded Cable and Easton, M. H. Abbott being editor and publisher. The new editor in his first article said he was in favor of the annexation of Cuba and the Sandwich Islands, as it would materially aid in building up commercial interests on our Pacific shores. I quote this to show what a broad latitude of comprehension some of our early journalists possessed. Abbott, however, was the right man in the right place in the pioneer days of our territory. Nearly every issue of his paper had crisp editorials on the advantages possessed by Minnesota.

He published two stories of the harvest of 1854 that are worth preserving. Major Furber of Cottage Grove threshed 863 bushels of wheat raised on twenty-five acres of sod plowing, and had a market on his farm at \$1.30 a bushel. This first crop from wild land paid him forty-five dollars an acre. T. M. Fullerton planted a squash seed that year which grew a vine until October 4th, before the frost killed it. It bore six squashes. They weighed 226 pounds. The largest branch of the vine was 39 feet long and all the branches aggregated 762 feet in length.

The Union went under at some time in 1856. The exact date I have not been able to find.

### **THE WINONA ARGUS.**

The fourteenth newspaper started in the state (or the eighteenth, if we include the four St. Paul dailies) was the Winona Argus. The first number of the Argus was printed December

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11th, 1854. It was a four-page, six-column sheet, published by Ashley Jones and Co., and edited by Ashley Jones and Sam Whiting. It was Democratic in politics. June 4th, 1857, Whiting retired and H. B. Cozzens took his place. July 2nd, Cozzens and Waldo took the lead, with Cozzens as editor. September 3rd, 1857, is the last of it in the Historical Society Library. It died about that time, and the Winona Times was started soon after with its material.

### **WILLIAM ASHLEY JONES.**

William Ashley Jones came to Winona as Deputy United States Surveyor. While surveying lands in the summer of 1853, he visited Wabasha prairie, where the city of Winona now stands, 18 274 and acquired all interest in the Smith and Johnson town plat and also in the Stevens claim, now Stevens' Addition. In company with Charles H. Berry and E. S. Smith, he established the first banking office in Winona in June, 1853. Mr. Jones also opened a large farm near Winona, now known as the Lamberton farm. He started the Winona Argus December 11th, 1854, as above stated, and was its editor until July 4th, 1857. About 1863 he removed to Dubuque, and there I lost sight of him.

### **CAPTAIN SAM WHITING.**

Captain Sam Whiting was a restless, erratic character. He was a native of Boston. In 1849 he went to Panama, and was editor of the first newspaper printed there. He was in the Arctic expedition in search of Dr. Kane, and was, also, a captain of one of the famous passenger steamers between New York and Liverpool. In 1854 he became one of the first editors of the Winona Argus. He was the first editor of the Winona Republican in 1855, and in 1858 was one of the editors of the Times, also published at Winona.

Afterward he was captain of the steamer Marion, which was seized by the Southern Confederacy before Fort Sumter was captured. Steaming out of Charleston he dipped his colors to the Stars and Stripes when opposite Fort Sumter. The Charleston authorities took him to task for it. Sam replied, "I was born under the Stars and Stripes, have always sailed

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under them, and by the blessing of God I will die under them.” Dying under them proved true, but in a way that Captain Sam little thought at that time. When he became too old for further wandering, he entered the Sailor's Snug Harbor, at New Brighton, on Staten Island, N. Y., and July 30th, 1882, he was found dead in bed, having committed suicide by cutting his throat.

### **SUMMARY, 1849 TO 1854.**

I have given in this paper the names of fourteen weekly and four daily papers, all I have been able to find that were started in Minnesota prior to 1855. Of these the Pioneer, Chronicle, and Register, three in number, appeared in 1849. The Dakota Friend and Minnesota Democrat appeared in 1850; the Watab Reveille, the St. Anthony Express, and the Minnesotian, came in 1851; and the Northwestern Democrat in 1853, no paper having been started in 1852. The year 1854 saw the beginning of the Republican 275 in St. Anthony; the St. Paul Times and the St. Paul Advertiser; the St. Croix Union, and Winona Argus; and the four dailies of the Pioneer, the Minnesotian, the Democrat, and the Times. Thus the total of new papers in 1854 was nine, counting the dailies.

Only the Pioneer Press, begun as the Minnesota Pioneer, survives. Neither the parties nor populations of those times called for any such lavish waste of editorial talent. The struggles of rival candidates for office, the boom building of a new territory, and the hustle of bright men to get ahead, were the causes of it. All the fierce intensities of personal journalism of course resulted. In other border towns of those early days, some of our editors would have been shot too full of holes for decent interment. Here, however, save the attack of Cooper on Goodhue, and Dodd on Owens, there were no brutal personal affrays. There was reason for this. Our editors, as a rule, were well educated, some of them college graduates. Such men are not of the wild beast type, of which criminals are made. The highest and best of life, set in rough environment, the gathering of clans around their chieftains, the devotion of men to their leaders, the bond that holds friend to friend,



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and, beyond all, the desire to make this the noble state it has since become, now shine like links of gold through the personal journalism of the early fifties.

The editors of those years who are yet alive are Wheelock, the old-time but still virile chief editor of the Pioneer Press, whose keen lash has often proved him the worthy successor of Goodhue; Goodrich, who could barb an editorial arrow and send it home fatally, and yet so clean-shafted that the wound in his adversary would not bleed; Yale-cultured Atwater, able alike in the editorial chair and forum; the pyrotechnic Charles G. Ames, to whom politics meant principle; and the patriotic Major Hotchkiss, supporting Fremont for the presidency, and placating his "Democratic Republican" conscience by flying "Thoroughly Jeffersonian" at his masthead.

Among those who have passed over the great divide are Goodhue, the fearless hater and exposé of shams; Joseph R. Brown, his successor, born with wildness in his blood, but so superbly gifted that whether in wigwam or legislative hall he was always the leader of men. His political opponents called him by no harsher term than "Joe, the Juggler," while he was only plain, 276 familiar "Joe Brown" to those who knew him best. Many a man still living remembers the hearty grasp of hand and fervent "God bless you," with which he greeted those who met and parted with him.

Then there was the rollicking-gaited, jovial John P. Owens, the "Rough and Ready" of the editorial fraternity of the fifties; his associate, the sedate and self-balanced McLean; and Col. D. A. Robertson, the hero of many a rough and tumble political struggle. There were also David Olmsted, the talented first mayor of St. Paul, quiet, determined, and holding his friends with hooks of steel; T. M. Newson, the natty, good-natured editor of the Times, and author of Pen Pictures of "Old Timers;" and the erratic Sam Whiting, gifted, but closing his life so sadly by suicide.

None of these early editors became rich from journalistic gains. They found the country new, privations many, difficulties everywhere hedging them about; and yet no land in its

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pioneer days was ever blessed with a more loyal or royal set of names at the head of its newspapers.

### **Second Paper, 1855.**

During 1855 the disorganized Whigs began to rally their broken ranks under the banners of the new Republican party, and Minnesota journalism gradually began to broaden to the discussion of national policies. The whiskey-and-tobacco, rough-and-ready, fight-today-and-good-fellow-tomorrow methods, of which early journalism was largely the exponent, were going down among the shadows of the past. The attritions of masses of people moving to new homes were rapidly making old settler memories of the conflicts of the clans. Minnesota had come to a time of better things.

Five weekly and four daily newspapers appeared in 1854, as has previously been stated. Nine weeklies and one daily, the St. Paul Press, appeared in 1855. St. Paul had five daily papers in that year to supply a population of 4,716 people, whereas in 1904, with a population of nearly or quite 200,000, it has but four. The 277 five dailies of 1855 were the extravagant heritage of a period when each political aspirant felt compelled to send newspaper trumpeters before him at whatever cost.

Of these superfluous St. Paul dailies death soon harvested the St. Paul Press. The Minnesotian and Times, tattered and torn by the financial cyclone of 1857, went down at the close of 1860. The St. Paul Pioneer, combining with the Democrat, escaped the storm.

### **ST. PETER'S COURIER.**

St. Peter's Courier was the name of the fifteenth newspaper started in the Territory. It was a four-page, six-column, Democratic weekly, published at St. Peter, Nicollet county, and owned by Governor W. A. Gorman, president of the St. Peter Company. The first issue was January 4th, 1855. J. C. Stoevers, now deceased, was editor and publisher. Being out of line with the politics of the paper, he retired, and on July 12th Henry B. Smyth took his

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place. Vol. 2. No. 1, of the paper was announced when only forty-one weekly publications had been made. Smyth then delivered a florid, fine-print valedictory of a column, and A. J. Morgan, familiarly known as Jack Morgan, saluted with another column. In the same issue the name was changed to the St. Peter Weekly Courier. Its motto was “No North, No South, No East, No West.” Somewhere between April 26th and May 21st, 1856, the name of Morgan was dropped from the head of its editorial columns without explanation, and its motto was changed by an editorial wit of the time to “No. North, no South, no East, no West, and no Editor.”

December 10th, 1856, the paper was enlarged to seven columns, but it was not until June 19th, 1857, that another editor, Everitt O. Foss, succeeded Morgan. I am informed, however, that Thomas M. Perry, formerly of Detroit, Michigan, but now connected with the St. Peter Herald, had control a part of the time while no name appeared at the head of the editorial columns of the Courier. January 1st, 1858, is the last of the paper in the Historical Library, though it continued to run until July, 1858. Foss, its last editor, came from Dover, N. H., and, according to the best information I can get, he returned to that place, and is now connected with a paper published there. The Courier was the first newspaper printed in the Minnesota Valley.

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Showing the prodigal use of money on newspapers hurried into new towns at that early day, the St. Paul Democrat of January 10th, 1855, commented thus: “A newspaper named St. Peter's Courier came yesterday from the town of St. Peter, Nicollet county. Truly no end of wonders. Here's a town which six months ago was not a town or hardly anything else, which now boasts a newspaper, respectable as to size and appearance.” And the Democrat might have enlarged its “no end of wonders,” at the same date, by saying that St. Paul was supplying its 4,716 people with four daily newspapers.

**JOHN C. STOEVEER.**

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John C. Stoever, the first editor of the St. Peter's Courier, was born in Germantown, Pa., January 5th, 1824. He learned the printer's trade in the office of the Germantown Telegraph. In 1847 he moved to Chicopee, Mass., and was editor and publisher of the Chicopee Telegraph, a Whig paper, seven years. In 1854 he came to St. Peter, Minn., and took charge of the St. Peter's Courier; but in 1855 he moved to Henderson. Sibley county, and in 1856 published the Henderson Democrat, but did not edit it.

Mr. Stoever was a member of the Minnesota Legislature from Sibley county early in 1869, and in the fall was appointed United States collector of customs at Pembina, and held the office six years. In early life Mr. Stoever was a Whig, and when that party went under he became a Republican; and though he was more or less connected with Democratic papers of early times in Minnesota, it was as publisher, and not as editor.

### **ANDREW J. MORGAN.**

Jack Morgan, as he was called by his associates, was short-statured, large-headed, and self-important, as most men of that build are apt to be. He stood well in the Democratic party, of which he was a valuable and voluble member. He was a printer by trade, a brother of Gen. George W. Morgan, who was prominent in the Mexican War; and his mother was a sister of one of the secretaries of the United States Treasury.

He came from Ohio to Minnesota in 1852; worked on the St. Anthony Express a while; was elected chief clerk of the House in the Territorial Legislature of 1854; became editor of the St. Peter Courier; was secretary of the Council in the Legislature of 1855; and assisted two of the St. Paul dailies editorially, while 279 not engaged in his legislative duties. Morgan died at the Merchant's Hotel, St. Paul, August 27th, 1856, when only twenty-eight years old. Jack Morgan had his faults, but they harmed no one but himself. No one could ever say that he was delinquent in the discharge of duty.

### **SAUK RAPIDS FRONTIERMAN.**

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The Frontierman was the sixteenth newspaper started in Minnesota. It was a four-page, six-column, Democratic weekly, owned and edited by Jeremiah Russell. The date of its first issue was early in May, 1855. The exact day I have been unable to find. Russell was register, and William Henry Wood receiver, of the United States Land Office at Sauk Rapids, Benton county, where the Frontierman was published. Between them they managed to keep the paper going in a desultory way, it being sometimes suspended weeks at a time, and afterward resumed with surprising indifference to regular methods. Finally at Vol. 3, No. 34, November 24th, 1859, a series of half sheets were issued, to which Russell referred, and then stated that he had sold the Frontierman plant to William H. Wood. Wood terminated the paper, and on January 26th, 1860, began another at Sauk Rapids, called the New Era, using the material sold to him by Russell.

### **JEREMIAH RUSSELL.**

Jeremiah Russell was born at Eaton, Madison county, N. Y., February 2nd, 1809. He set type when young in the office of the Fredonia Gazette, the first paper printed in Chautauqua county, New York. He came to Fort Snelling in 1837, and in 1848 was agent for Borup and Oakes of St. Paul, at their Indian trading post in Crow Wing, Morrison county. In 1854 he helped lay out the town of Sank Rapids, Benton county; was register of the United States land office of that district; treasurer of Benton county several years; county auditor one year; and was a member of the first Territorial Legislature in 1849. He lived in Sauk Rapids until his death, which occurred June 8th, 1885. Integrity was the distinguishing trait of Mr. Russell's character.

### **HENRY P. PRATT.**

Henry P. Pratt, part proprietor with Owens and Moore, and one of the editors, of the Minnesotian of St. Paul, died May 8th, 1855, as has been stated in my record of that paper. He was 280 born in Farmington, Maine, in May, 1812, and learned the printer's trade in the office of the Kennebec Journal at Augusta. He afterward became connected

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with the Somerset Journal at Norridgewock, and finally moved the establishment to Skowhegan and changed its name to the People's Press. He conducted this paper eight years and then sold out, and in the spring of 1854 came to St. Paul. In May of that year he became connected with the Minnesotian, and soon afterward bought an interest in the paper and became one of its editors. Integrity of character, thorough uprightness in all his relations with men, marked the course of Mr. Pratt through life.

### **RED WING SENTINEL, NO. 1.**

The Sentinel was the seventeenth newspaper established in Minnesota. At the beginning it was a four-page, six-column, Independent sheet. The first issue was dated about July 20th, 1855, and was printed at Red Wing, Goodhue county. Its editor was William Colvill, Jr. and its publishers Dan S. Merritt and James C. Hutchins. Colvill having been elected secretary of the Territorial Council of 1856, W. W. Phelps, then register of the United States Land Office at Red Wing, volunteered to help him out as temporary editor. It seems that neither could give the paper the time it needed, and on May 15th, 1856, the Pioneer and Democrat announced that the editor of the Sentinel and its proprietors had that week printed their valedictory. The press and material were then sold to Alexis Bailly, one of the proprietors of the town of Hastings, Dakota county, and were used to start the Dakota Weekly Journal. The History of Goodhue County says it was moved to that village, and Merritt and Hutchins opened the Kelly House in Red Wing and went into the hotel business.

The town of Red Wing having been thus left without a newspaper, Nehemiah V. and Cornelius Bennett brought in another printing outfit, and about July 1st, 1856, the first number of the Minnesota Gazette was issued. The history of this paper will be given when I come to the papers of 1856. That of Red Wing Sentinel No. 2, which followed the demise of the Gazette, will be given in the history of the papers of 1857.

### **WILLIAM COLVILL, JR.**

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William Colvill, Jr., was born at Forestville, Chautauqua county, N. Y., April 5th, 1830. He studied law; was admitted to the bar in April, 1851; came to Red Wing, Minnesota, in April, 1854; became editor of the Red Wing Sentinel in July, 1855; and was elected secretary of the Minnesota Territorial Council in 1856. After the failure of Red Wing Sentinel, No. 1, in May, 1856, he practiced law until the Minnesota Gazette, the successor of the Sentinel, died in turn early in 1857. Then Dan S. Merritt, one of the former owners of Sentinel, No. 1, bought the Gazette outfit, sold half to Colvill, and they started the Red Wing Sentinel. No. 2, dating back the first number so as to bridge over from Sentinel, No. 1, the same as though all the issues of the Gazette had been Sentinels. In February, 1860, Colvill sold his interest to W. W. Phelps, because he saw trouble ahead in the Charleston Convention.

As soon as the war began, Colvill raised the Goodhue County Volunteers, was elected their captain, and on April 28th, 1861, was mustered in. He became colonel of the regiment; led it through the terrible crisis that turned the tide of battle at bloody Gettysburg; and, disabled by his wounds, was mustered out of service in May, 1864. He was a member of the Minnesota Legislature in 1865. After adjournment he was mustered into the United States service again; was made colonel of the First Minnesota Artillery; and was stationed at Chattanooga until July, 1865. He was brevetted brigadier general, and was mustered out finally the succeeding July.

He was attorney general of Minnesota from January 8th, 1866, to January 10th, 1868; and was elected to the Legislature of 1878 on the Democratic ticket from one of the strongest Republican counties in the state.

Crippled by wounds received in battle, the old veteran still lives, honored for patriotism, as few have ever been honored in Minnesota.

### **SOUTHERN MINNESOTA HERALD.**

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According to the History of Houston County, the Southern Minnesota Herald, of Brownsville in that county, was established June 23rd, 1855. Vol. 1, No. 45, June 14th, 1856, is the first issue that I can definitely trace. If printed continuously, No. 1 would have been August 11th, 1855. That it was so printed is shown by the fact that Vol. 1, No. 52, now in the library, is dated August 2nd, 1856. I shall assume therefore that August 11th was the beginning of the Herald. William Frazier Ross was editor and publisher of the paper, which was the eighteenth in the Territory. It was the four-page, six-column sheet, common in those days, and professed to be independent in politics. At first it supported Henry M. Rice for delegate to Congress, but turned to David Olmsted during the canvass. The proprietors of the paper were J. H. McKenny, register of the United States Land Office; J. R. Bennett, receiver; Charles Brown, Job Brown, and E. A. Goodell, who were some of the owners of the town of Brownsville.

August 2nd, 1856, Mark Percival joined Ross, and the firm became Ross and Percival. September 20th, 1856, Charles Brown became editor of the paper, and it supported the Republican party for a time. November 8th, Ross retired and the firm name was made Brown and Percival. May 30th, 1857, Brown dissolved his connection with the Republican party, because in his opinion it could not supply the place of the old Whig party, to which he had formerly belonged. Finally, wearying of independence, he went over in September, 1857, to the party he had been fighting all his life, hoisted the Democratic flag, placed its ticket at the head of his editorial columns, and got into a quarrel with Percival, who retired, leaving Brown full swing.

March 5th, 1859, this paper seems to have been moved to a place called Fairy Rock, eleven miles east of Caledonia, Houston county; and there, in the latter part of June, 1859, it died. These were its last words: "The little craft has furled its colors, lashed fast its rudder, thrown out all her canvas and wind-catchers for a lonely cruise up dreary Salt River. We have fought hard for the Democracy, but the pork and beans failed, and we



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caved.” To this the Mantorville Express of July 2nd, 1859, unfeelingly responded, “It is hard to make an empty bag stand upright.”

### **CHARLES BROWN.**

Charles Brown was born in Ontario county, New York, in 1826, and came to Wildcat bluff, now Brownsville, with his brother Job Brown, in 1848, when that country was new and wild. He helped lay out the town of Brownsville, and became editor and finally owner of the Herald, as I have stated. He was a man helpful to those who needed assistance, and public spirited in all that concerned the town in which he lived. He finally became insane, and died in the asylum at St. Peter, June 26th, 1873.

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### **THE WINONA WEEKLY EXPRESS.**

The Winona Express was the nineteenth paper issued in Minnesota. It was printed in Winona, and was an independent four-page, seven-column weekly. Henry D. Huff, a prominent resident and one of the original owners of Winona, was its proprietor; and William Creek, a bright young writer, was its editor. The first issue was dated August 14th, 1855. On September 13th, Creek, dissatisfied with the political trend that Huff, its owner, sought to give the paper, jumped the traces and published this curt valedictory, “I this day retire from all further connection with the Winona Weekly Express.”

That was all, but it was enough. Wilson C. Huff, son of Henry D., was immediately made editor. The paper supported David Olmsted for delegate to Congress, in opposition to Henry M. Rice and William R. Marshall; and when Rice was elected, the columns of the Express were dressed in mourning, the first and last time known to Minnesota journalism when blighted political hopes were thus somberly buried. Early in November the press and printing materials of the Express were sold to Walter G. Dye and Co., and on November 20th, 1855, were used to start the Winona Republican.

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Wilson C. Huff died shortly after the Express failed. Henry D. Huff died in Chicago a few years ago, and was buried in Winona, William Creek, the first editor of the Express, left Winona during the latter part of November, 1855; and nothing, so far as I know, has been heard of him since.

### **THE ST. PAUL FREE PRESS.**

The St. Paul Free Press was the twentieth weekly, and the fifth daily, published in the Territory of Minnesota. It was a four-page, six-column sheet, devoted to fostering the political ambition of Stephen A. Douglas nationally and of Willis A. Gorman in Minnesota. It began August 30th, 1855. A. C. Smith, afterwards register of the United States Land Office at Minneapolis, was its editor; and S. J. Albright and Co. were its publishers. December 5th, after the defeat of Olmsted, it contracted the length and width of its columns, denoting the beginning of the end of its career. The Pioneer and Democrat of May 22nd, 1856, announced its permanent suspension.

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### **A. C. SMITH**

I never think of A. C. Smith but there rises before me a tall, gaunt, awkward-looking, cavern-eyed man, behind a pair of very large gold spectacles. His description of himself was "six feet high when I straighten up, which I rarely do, round shouldered, gaunt, wiry, with a face looking like a bunch of old gun locks."

He was born in Orange county, Vermont, February 14th, 1814; studied law in that state, and was admitted to practice before the Supreme Court at Washington, D. C., Feb. 14th, 1838. In the spring of 1839 he removed to Mt. Clemens, Michigan, and published the Macomb County Gazette four years; and from June, 1851, until he came to Minnesota, he published a Masonic journal named "The Ancient Landmark." He was a member of the Michigan State Senate in 1845 and 1846, and was a district judge in Michigan three years,

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his term expiring in 1854. He revived the Grand Lodge of the Masonic Order in Michigan, and was its Grand Secretary from 1841 to 1844, and again in 1847.

In 1855 Mr. Smith moved to St. Paul, and became the editor of the Free Press, which ran its active but brief career as I have stated. He was appointed register of the United States Land Office at Minneapolis February 4th, 1857, and went with it to Forest City, Meeker county, when it was moved there March 22d, 1858, and continued to act as register until succeeded by D Mussey, October 2d, 1858. When Litchfield began to grow he opened a law office there and remained until his death, September 20th, 1880. He was a very pronounced Democrat of the old school, and of much more than ordinary ability. As a land officer, the only complaint I ever heard against him was that he was partial to the poor.

### **SHAKOPEE INDEPENDENT.**

The first issue of the Shakopee Independent was dated Nov. 3rd, 1855, and it was the twenty-first newspaper started in Minnesota. It was four-page, six-column, and independent, at the outset, as usual. Allen Green was editor and publisher, and the place of publication was Shakopee, Scott county. January 9th, 1856, Martin Phillips and E. W. Thrift became editors and publishers. August 20th, 1856, the paper was dressed in mourning for the death of Martin Phillips. George H. Phillips, who died 285 in Washington, D. C., March 20th, 1886, succeeded him, and the paper went to the Democracy.

September 24th 1856, the name of the paper was changed to The Valley Herald. January 14th, 1857, Thomas B. Hunt became assistant editor, but in two months Phillips was alone again. The editorials of the paper must have been somewhat offensive to some of the Republicans of the day, for the Falls Evening News, published at St. Anthony, said the Herald was published by B. Ruffian and edited mostly by R. G. Whiskey.

August 26th, 1857, the paper became the Weekly Valley Herald. October 28th, 1857, is the date of the last number in the Historical Library. It seems that it was afterward temporarily suspended, for I find that the Belle Plaine Inquirer of September 23rd,

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1858, announced its reappearance with Phillips and Marsh as editors and proprietors. It must have been submerged permanently soon afterward, for I find no place where it is mentioned since that date.

### **MARTIN PHILLIPS.**

Martin Phillips died in Shakopee, August 19th, 1856, and the Shakopee Independent, of which he was the editor, thus alluded to it in its issue of the 20th: "Martin Phillips is dead. Calmly and quietly, without a feeling of pain and surrounded by those who were dear to him in life, he yielded up his soul to the God who made it."

Phillips was less than twenty-one years of age at the time of his death, being the youngest editor in Minnesota. Honorable and honest in his transactions with mankind, sociable and with a warm heart, and endowed with abilities far beyond his years, he lived respected by all, and died without an enemy.

### **THE WINONA REPUBLICAN.**

A company of eighteen Republicans of Winona purchased the printing plant of the discontinued Winona Express, and on November 20th, 1855, issued the first number of the Winona Republican. It was the twenty-second newspaper printed in Minnesota. It was a four-page, seven-column sheet; Captain Sam Whiting, to whom I have referred in my record of the Winona Argus, was its editor, and Walter G. Dye its publisher. Whiting edited eighteen numbers and then retired. A. P. Foster joined Dye, temporarily, and the paper went on under King, Foster, 286 Dye and Co., publishers. June 19th, 1856, Daniel Sinclair purchased Foster's interest and became editor of the paper. In the fall Dye sold his half interest to four gentlemen of Winona, who in turn sold to W. C. Dodge; who is at present a patent attorney in Washington, D. C. February 3rd, 1857, Dodge resold to Dye, and the firm became D. Sinclair and Co.

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May 19th, 1857, D. Sinclair and Co. disappeared from the head of its columns. April 2nd, 1864, Sheldon C. Cary purchased the interest belonging to Dye and continued with the paper until his death, by drowning, on the night of December 28th, 1864, by the breaking of the ice while he was on the river with a sleighing party.

November 19th, 1859, the Republicans started a small, three-column daily, called The Review, but December 19th, 1859, it was changed to the Winona Daily Republican and enlarged to five columns.

July 1st, 1865, Dye again became a joint partner with Sinclair, and on November 25th, 1866. John Dobbs purchased a third interest in the paper. On and off, Mr. Dye was publisher of the Republican about twenty-five years; and Mr. Sinclair was its editor until it consolidated with the Winona Herald, February 18th, 1901. It is still a highly successful newspaper, and enjoys the distinction of being the oldest Republican journal in Minnesota. A. P. Foster died about 1886; and Walter G. Dye, I believe, in 1892.

### **DANIEL SINCLAIR.**

Daniel Sinclair was born in Thurso, Scotland, January 12th, 1833. He came to Winona in the spring of 1856, purchased a half interest in the Winona Republican, and, until it united with the Herald, was its editor-in-chief. He was made postmaster of Winona May 16th, 1869, in Grant's administration, and filled the office continuously until July 1st, 1885. The first of July, 1890, he was re-appointed. Mr. Sinclair is still living in Winona, and has acted a prominent part in shaping the interests of southern Minnesota.

### **MINNESOTA DEUTSCHE ZEITUNG.**

F. A. Renz, a prominent German Republican of St. Paul, gives me the following facts about the beginnings of the Minnesota 287 Deutsche Zeitung, the twenty-third newspaper in regular order in Minnesota:

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Seven Democrats, then prominent in the party, advanced one hundred dollars each to help Friedrich Orthwein start the Zeitung. The St. Paul Minnesotian of November 20th, 1855, says it was started as an independent Democratic paper, and that the first number was printed on Monday, November 19th, 1855, with F. Orthwein, editor and publisher.

Mr. Renz tells me that soon after the Zeitung was started, Orthwein offered to sell out to the Republicans, if they would take him and his paper over to that party. Accordingly, Mr. Renz and Dominik Troyer advanced the money to repay the Democrats, and Orthwein went with his paper to the Republicans. In May the paper was enlarged, preparatory to entering the presidential campaign; and the Minnesotian of August 9th, 1856, advertised Orthwein of the Zeitung to address the German Republicans of St. Anthony.

Number 28 of Volume 2 is the earliest issue of the Zeitung in the Historical library, dated August 1st, 1857. This would make Vol. I, No. 1, for January 26th, 1856, which is probably the date of the Republican beginning of the Zeitung.

Orthwein failed to keep his agreement with the Republicans, and was dispossessed. This resulted in the temporary suspension of the Zeitung. It went into the hands of C. D. Gilfillan, chairman of the Republican Central Committee; but the St. Paul Minnesotian of January 20th, 1857, announced its reappearance, still under Republican control.

Orthwein went back to the Democrats, and the November 20th, 1856, issue of the Pioneer and Democrat, while announcing the suspension of the Zeitung, said, "In a few weeks the National Demokrat, a German Democratic newspaper, will be issued." It was understood that the Demokrat was to be run by Orthwein. It did not start, however, until the spring of 1857, as the first number of the National Demokrat in the Historical Library is No. 40 of Vol. 1, dated March 6th, 1858. This would make No. 1, Vol. 1, of the Demokrat date June 6th, 1857.

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The first editor of the Zeitung, under the new management, was Charles Carree. November 21st, 1857, seems, however, to be the last the files tell of Carree's connection with the Zeitung. The 288 files then miss to February 20th, 1858, when Herrmann Du Brisson became the editor. May 22nd, 1858, the name of Du Brisson drops out; and no editor takes his place in the files, though I understand that Charles Passavant had charge about that time.

About May 1st, 1858, the Zeitung passed into the hands of Samuel Ludvigh, who had been the editor of a German quarterly published in Baltimore. His admirers welcomed him with a band and torchlight procession on his arrival in St. Paul. Orthwein, who had then returned from Chaska, and was filling out the unexpired subscription list of the Thalboten, an unsuccessful Carver County journalistic enterprise, with his St. Paul Demokrat, took occasion to make some slurring remarks about the torchlight proceedings. For this he was assaulted by Leopold Vonk, a friend of Ludvigh, who was brought into court and fined fifty dollars and costs before Judge Simons.

When Ludvigh took control of the Zeitung, the word Deutsche was dropped from the title and the word Staats took its place. In 1862 Ludvigh went out and the Staats Zeitung was taken in hand successively by Christian Exel, Carl Reuter, and Andrew R. Kiefer. Then Albert Wolff, who had been connected editorially more or less with the Zeitung from the time when it became a Republican paper, made an alliance with Theodore Sander, and they bought the paper; but Sander, later on, became the sole proprietor.

Under Sander the Zeitung was consolidated in 1877 with the Minnesota Volksblatt, another German weekly which had started under Philip Rohr on November 19th, 1861, and which was owned by Carl H. Lienau at the date of consolidation. The combined paper was then called the Volkszeitung, which is its name today. A stock company was formed at the time of consolidation, with C. H. Lienau as president, Albert Wolff, editor, and

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Theodore Sander, manager. It ran after this, with slight business changes, until December 31st, 1897, when F. W. Bergmeier acquired the paper and still runs it.

The Zeitung was the first German newspaper in the Territory; and it is now the oldest German paper in Minnesota. I have not found anyone who can tell what finally became of Frederick Orthwein, the man who started it.

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### **ALBERT WOLFF.**

Albert Wolff was the editor of the Deutsche Zeitung during the mid-period of its existence and was a writer for its columns during much of the remaining time up to his death a few years ago. He was born in Brunswick, Germany, September 26th, 1825; was well educated, but, in 1849, while yet a student, was sentenced to death for revolutionary acts. He was pardoned, however, in 1852, and shortly after came to the United States. In November, 1852, he arrived in St. Paul, remained about two years in the employ of F. A. Renz of this city, and then took up a Government claim in Carver county. He was elected to the Territorial Legislature in 1855 on the Olmsted Democratic ticket, but was denied admission on the ground of the illegal organization of Carver county. He then returned to St. Paul, and began editorial work, which he continued on different German papers in St. Paul and the Minnesota valley, until near the time of his death.

He was a graphic writer, and an eloquent speaker; but of quiet habits, preferring a literary to a business career. This preference unfitted him, in his opinion, for the active hustling life he found everywhere around him in Minnesota. Those who knew him best thought his life more than ordinarily successful, but he had higher ambitions, and, because they were not realized, he went to his death by suicide November 25th, 1893, under a Chicago Great Western locomotive in the Union Depot yard in St. Paul.

### **IMMIGRATION.**



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In 1854 the first great rush of people into the Northwest began. Thousands came overland in the canvas-covered "prairie schooners" common in those early days. Three new steamers were put on the river by the Galena line for the season of 1855. Every boat came loaded to the guards. There is authentic record that nearly thirty thousand people came up the river during that year alone. Some of the steamers divided three times their cost in actual profits.

No wonder that journalism caught the boom infection of those years. Nine new weekly newspapers and one daily were started in 1855, eighteen new weeklies in 1856, and nineteen prior to August 10th, 1857. On August 25th, 1857, came the explosion 19 290 that many old timers so painfully remember. Of those forty-six tender journalistic children that ascended in that explosion, the oldest of which had lived less than twenty-eight months, there came down, dead and mortally wounded, seven of the nine born in 1855; seventeen of the eighteen of 1856; and eighteen of the nineteen that had started during the first eight months of 1857. The mortality of corner lots was hardly greater than that of the newspapers of those twenty-eight months.

### **Third Paper, 1856.**

The year 1856 came in, scattering with prodigal hand along its course eighteen additional weeklies through the vigorous young towns of Minnesota Territory.

The fever of pioneer enterprise increased. Alert traders, lawyers, doctors, mechanics, and other village and city builders, crowded every upbound steamboat on the Mississippi. Prairie schooners, crammed with farmers' families and their belongings, dotted the country landscape in all directions. Everywhere swarmed eager men intent on corner lots, land claims, and business and professional locations. The boom that finally brought disaster to the Northwest by over-doing things was rapidly building. What wrecks it left!

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About every twenty years the boys of the preceding financial storm have grown to be men and are taking their turn in commanding the business crafts of the country. Some day they drift into the fogs of what men call new conditions, and in turn they go down on the same old rocks that wrecked their fathers and grandfathers.

It reminds me of the story of the retired merchant whose grandson came to him for a record of his experience to guide him in the business life he was about to enter. "No, John," said the old man, "you wouldn't foller it if I should give it to ye. The best thing fer you is to pitch right in and get yer own experience, and,—John, get it arley."

No matter how or when the time comes, communities, states, and nation, alike must have their financial disciplinary periods. They seem to be part of the needs of men. Individuals go down in these storms to irretrievable ruin, but as a whole there has been 291 an advance. The masses of men have come out of the wreckage each time on safer ground.

### **THE FILLMORE COUNTY PIONEER.**

The St. Paul Daily Minnesotian of January 18th, 1856, says it has received the first number of a new paper called the Fillmore County Pioneer. Its place of publication was Carimona, a town laid out in March, 1855, by a company of townsite proprietors. It was neutral in politics; was owned by David Olmsted, William P. Murray, and Louis Robert, of St. Paul; and was edited and published by Ezra R. Trask. After running it awhile, Trask found that there was no money in the paper for him unless he owned the plant. He therefore proposed to the proprietors that they give him the plant on condition that he continue to print the Pioneer at Carimona and pay the bills. This was done. At that time, Carimona was the county seat of Fillmore county. Soon afterward, however, the county seat was moved to Preston. Trask then picked up his little hand press and its belongings, cast his agreement with Olmsted and Co. to the winds, and moved into Iowa, where he sold out, and that was the last heard of him.

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The History of Fillmore county says that Trask sold the Pioneer outfit October 22nd, 1855, which is a mistake, as the paper was not started until January, 1856, as above stated. Probably the month and day are right, but the year should be 1856, instead of 1855. H. C. Butler is said to be the party who bought it. Who the was, or where he moved the press and material, I have no means of knowing. The Fillmore County Pioneer was the twenty-fourth newspaper started in the Territory, and the first of three papers that lived and died early in the little village of Carimona.

### **CHARLES J. HENNISS.**

The next important chronological event of Minnesota journalism was the death of Charles J. Henniss. He died of consumption, February 14th, 1856, aged thirty-five. He was born in Philadelphia, and was connected with the United States Gazette, the Courier and Inquirer of New York, and the North American of Philadelphia, prior to coming to St. Paul in the summer of 1850. In November, 1850, he became editor and proprietor of the Chronicle and Register of St. Paul, the only Whig paper then published in the Territory. He was afterward 292 connected, in various editorial ways, with different St. Paul papers, his last assignment being as miscellaneous editor of the Pioneer and Democrat in 1855.

Mr. Henniss was a college graduate, a lawyer by profession, and a writer of more than ordinary ability. Like many bright fellows of those early days, he had some weaknesses of character; but they injured none but himself. He was chief among unselfish men, having been known to minister weeks at a time at the bedside of the sick and needy without reward, except the consciousness of the performance of a noble duty.

### **THE HENDERSON DEMOCRAT.**

The Henderson Democrat was a four-page, seven-column, Democratic paper, which, according to the Pioneer and Democrat of April 17th, 1856, was started at Henderson, Sibley county, on April 3rd of that year. It was the twenty-fifth paper published in the

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Territory. Its editor and owner was the omnipresent, irrepressible Joseph R. Brown. He was a prominent Democratic leader in early days, the owner and editor during 1853 and 1854 of the St. Paul Pioneer, and the father of the town of Henderson, where in 1856 the Democrat was started as above stated. In 1857 he was elected to the Minnesota Legislature a third time; and shortly afterward he became a member of the convention to form a constitution for the new state of Minnesota.

On the sixth of August, 1857, Brown installed Charles C. Guppy as editor and publisher of the Democrat. Guppy was succeeded shortly after by James W. Lynde. The latter tired of his position and of the Democracy together, and on May 25th, 1859, he resigned from the Democrat and abandoned the party. June 1st, 1859, the name of H. H. Young appeared at the head of its columns. April 6th, 1861, is the date of the last number in the files of the Library of the Historical Society. It went under soon afterward.

Lynde was shot by an Indian at the beginning of the savage outbreak of 1862. Guppy I have been unable to trace.

### **H. H. YOUNG.**

Harry H. Young was born in Virginia in 1825 of Quaker parentage. He came to Minnesota in 1859, and lived first at 293 Henderson. During the civil war he went back east and was correspondent of a Baltimore paper. He returned at the end of the war, and was employed on Red Wing and Rochester papers, and later became Immigration Secretary of Minnesota. While in that office he edited and distributed seventy-five thousand copies of "Illustrated Minnesota." He died in St. Luke's Hospital in St. Paul, of congestion of the brain, February 8th, 1896.

### **A TERRITORIAL ROLL OF HONOR.**

I like to enliven the rather dry routine of my stir among the journalistic dry bones of the territorial period by relating incidents of those early days. Not all are of the humorous kind,

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however. One carries me back to the beginnings of the Minnesota Historical Society. In my search through the files of early territorial newspapers I came to the January 16th, 1856, issue of the Pioneer and Democrat. There I found the names of sixty-two men who contributed twenty-five dollars each for a life membership in the Society to enable Colonel D. A. Robertson to purchase two lots for building purposes. Fifteen hundred dollars were paid for the lots, the basement walls and corner stone were laid, and then 1857 rolled over the foundations and the building stopped. The lots are on the northwest corner of Wabasha and Tenth streets. They will prove a valuable nucleus towards providing permanent quarters when the Society has outgrown the rooms given it in the new capitol building. This will come sooner than most of us now believe possible.

Naming the sixty-two donors of life memberships to buy those two lots seems now like calling the roll of the dead. Here they are:

N. J. T. Diana,

B. F. Hoyt,

Parker Payne,

George L. Baker,

J. Esseas Warren,

Lyman Dayton,

Lyman C. Dayton,

Simon W. Arnold,

Alexander Ramsey,

Charles N. Mackubin,

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Erastus S. Edgerton,

William R. Marshall,

Truman M. Smith,

R. R. Nelson,

C. J. Pettys,

C. P. Daly,

L. M. Olivier,

Charles L. Willis,

Alexis Bailly,

A. H. Cathcart,

D. A. J. Baker,

John Randall,

M. W. Irwin,

C. T. Whitney,

J. E. Whitney,

Justus C. Ramsey,

Charles D. Elfelt,

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J. C. Martin,

O. R. Cole,

William Henry Forbes,

Norman W. Kittson,

J. W. Bass,

John R. Irvine,

William L. Banning,

William Hollinshead.

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William Constans,

W. L. Ames,

A. F. Hows,

J. L. Farwell,

J. P. Pond,

James M. Winslow,

Daniel Rohrer,

William G. Le Duc,

Joseph S. Sewall,

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M. E. Ames,

George Fuller,

Isaac Van Etten,

Franklin Steele,

J. W. Selby,

F. Frederick,

A. L. Larpenteur,

Alfred Gurin,

David Gurin,

Edmund Rice,

John B. Brisbin,

Abram Elfelt,

Henry H. Sibley,

J. C. Burbank,

Alpheus Fuller,

D. A. Robertson,

Peter Berkey,



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John Nicols.

I knew nearly all these men, and of the sixty-two I am not certain that more than nine still survive. They are D. A. J. Baker, Peter Berkey, William Constans, N. J. T. Diana, A. L. Larpenteur, William G. Le Duc, R. R. Nelson, Joseph S. Sewall, and Truman M. Smith.

### **DAKOTA WEEKLY JOURNAL.**

The Dakota Weekly Journal was the twenty-sixth newspaper started in Minnesota. Only one copy of this paper is in the library of the Historical Society. I find it bound with the files of the Hastings Independent. It was a four-page, six column, Democratic paper. The copy preserved is No. 5 of Volume I, dated June 21st, 1856, making the date of first issue May 24th, 1856. The press and material were the same as had been used to print the Red Wing Sentinel No. 1, referred to in my record of the papers of 1855. The purchase was made by Alexis Bailly, an old time fur trader of Mendota, and member of the first Territorial Legislature of Minnesota. The place of publication was Hastings, Dakota county. Henry G. Bailly, son of Alexis, ran the paper and James C. Dow was its editor. Henry G. Bailly was a member of the Constitutional Convention of Minnesota and a senator in the first legislature after Minnesota became a state.

The county seat of Dakota county was at first located at Kaposia, a small Indian trading post a short distance below St. Paul. The village of Mendota being somewhat prominent in the early fifties as the headquarters of Hon. H. H. Sibley, who became the first governor of Minnesota after its admission as a state, the county seat was removed to that place in 1854. At an election held March 27th, 1857, it was ordered that the county seat be removed to Hastings, and the records were transferred June 2nd, 1857, where they have since remained.

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The History of Dakota County says that on April 24th, 1857, when it became known that the county seat had been voted to be moved to Hastings, Dow printed his valedictory and retired from the Journal. Martin Williams succeeded him, but the Pioneer Press of November 19th, 1857, announced the permanent suspension of the paper.

### **JAMES C. DOW.**

Jim Dow, as he was familiarly called, was a man who would have ranked next to Goodhue as an editorial writer, had he kept steady and attended to business. Neglected, however, as the Dakota Journal was during most of its existence, it yet stood well among the newspapers of the territory while it lived. I have no record of where Dow was born, or of his doings before he became editor of the Journal. He was a member of the House in the first legislature after Minnesota became a state, and succeeded Hon. W. W. Phelps as register of the United States Land Office at Henderson, April 17th, 1858, Phelps having been elected to Congress. Since that time, I have found no trace of him.

### **MARTIN WILLIAMS.**

Martin Williams was born in Ohio in 1823. He learned the printers' trade there, and came to St. Paul and was connected with its early papers until he became editor of the Dakota Journal in 1857. After that he moved to St. Peter, and established the St. Peter's Tribune in 1859. He afterward sold the Tribune and became a quartermaster in the army. After the war he worked on the Pioneer and Democrat of St. Paul, and in 1869 moved to Minneapolis and worked there as a reporter until his death, December 10th, 1891. Martin Williams had many friends.

### **THE MINNESOTA GAZETTE.**

The Minnesota Gazette was the twenty-seventh newspaper printed in Minnesota. No files are in existence that I can find. The origin of this paper was as follows. The press and material of the lied Wing Sentinel having been sold to Alexis Bailly on the 15th of May,

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1856, and moved from Red Wing to Hastings to start the Dakota Weekly Journal, Red Wing was left without a newspaper. Nehemiah V. and Cornelius Bennett then stepped in with a new plant and started, the Minnesota Gazette. 296 As the Pioneer and Democrat of St. Paul on July 3rd, 1856, and the Northwestern Democrat of Minneapolis on July 5th, announced the receipt of the first number of the Gazette, it is safe to assume that it was started about July 1st. N. V. Bennett was the editor and Cornelius Bennett the publisher.

June 6th, 1857, the St. Paul Advertiser said, "Red Wing Gazette has changed owners, Mr. Bennett having sold to Dan S. Merritt. Mr. Bennett leaves the office on account of his health." Merritt published the paper under the name of the Gazette, according to the St. Paul Advertiser as late as July 25th, 1857, and then changed the name back to the Red Wing Sentinel, picking up the old volume and number of the Sentinel by the way and going on as though the Gazette had never existed. The record of the Red Wing Sentinel No. 1 was given in my history of papers of 1855. The record of Red Wing Sentinel No. 2 will come under the head of papers of 1857.

### **A PIONEER POLL LIST.**

One day in May, 1856, R. P. Russell, receiver of the United States Land Office for the Minneapolis District, brought into the office of the St. Anthony Express, a paper that he thought might interest its readers. It read as follows:

At an election held at the house of R. P. Russell in the precinct of St. Anthony Falls, township 29, in the County of St. Croix, and Territory of Wisconsin, on the 30th day of October, 1848, the following persons received the number of votes annexed to their respective names for the following described offices, to wit: Henry H. Sibley had twelve for Delegate' to Congress; Henry M. Rice had thirty for Delegate to Congress.

Certified by us

Calvin A Tuttle,

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Roswell P. Russell,

Sherburn House,

Judges of Election.

Attest

Caleb D. Dorr,

Sumner W. Farnham,

Clerks of Election.

### **The names of the voters were as follows:**

Alpheus R. French,

Andrew L. Cummings,

Benjamin Bowles,

Andrew Schwartz,

John Dall,

Alfred B. Robinson,

Henry H. Angell,

Benjamin Bidgood,

Charles L. Mitchell,

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Robert Cummings,

Ira A. Burrows.

William A. Cheever,

Eli F. Lewis,

Isaac Marks,

Joseph Brown,

Anthony Page,

Stephen S. Angell,

John J. Carlton,

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Edward Patch,

Horace Booth,

John Banfield,

David Chapman,

Dixon Farmer,

John Rex,

Dennis Sherica,

William J. Whaland,

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John McDermott,

Edgar Folsom,

David Gilman,

Joel B. Daman,

Sanford Huse,

Aaron P. Howard,

Iran Sincere,

James M. Howard,

Louis Cross,

Daniel Stanchfield,

Sterling Gresshorn,

Roswell P. Russell,

Sherburn Huse,

Caleb D. Dorr,

Sumner W. Farnham,

Calvin A. Tuttle.

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Of this list of forty-two voters, comprising all that then lived in what is now Minneapolis, Mr. Dorr and I recognize the names of only three who are now living. They are Caleb D. Dorr, Daniel Stanchfield and Edward Patch.

### **WABASHA JOURNAL, NO. 1.**

The Wabasha Journal, No. 1, started at Read's Landing, Wabasha county, and the earliest mention of it that I find is in the Minnesotian of July 18th, and the St. Anthony Express of July 19th, 1856. It must have been started about the 15th of July, 1856. The History of Wabasha County says the first issue was July 4th, 1856. It was a six-column, Democratic sheet. H. J. Sanderson was its proprietor and editor, and it was the twenty-eighth newspaper started in Minnesota.

The History of Wabasha County says the Journal was moved from Read's Landing to Wabasha in the spring of 1857, and was made the official paper of that village April 27th, 1858. At some time during the summer of 1858, S. S. Burleson of North Pepin, Wisconsin, bought an interest in the paper; and later he became its owner, and changed its name to the Minnesota Patriot. After a few months Burleson sold to H. C. Simpson, who changed the name back to the Journal. In 1860, G. W. Marsh came in with him, and the Journal became Republican and supported Lincoln for President.

The Journal No. 1 went with the leaves in the autumn of 1858. Burleson afterward became an Episcopal minister. Sanderson went south and joined the Confederate army, and Grant got him when he captured Vicksburg in 1863.

### **THE PRESTON JOURNAL.**

I find in the St. Paul Minnesotian of July 21st, 1856, that the Preston Journal of Preston, Fillmore county, had just made its appearance, and was neutral in politics. I also find that the History of Fillmore County says a paper called the Preston 298 Journal was issued in 1856 by Getzel and Co., and after printing one issue was stopped. I find no

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further reference to it. If it is worth a name, however, it is worth a number in the series of Minnesota newspapers. The Journal must have appeared about the 15th of July, 1856. I have placed it in the list as the twenty-ninth newspaper started in Minnesota Territory; and there, until some one furnishes more facts about it, I shall have to leave it.

### **OWATONNA WATCHMAN AND REGISTER.**

The Owatonna Watchman and Register leaves no files that I have been able to find. The earliest notices of it appear in the Minnesotian, the Pioneer and Democrat, and the St. Paul Advertiser. The Minnesotian of July 29th, 1856, says it was edited by A. B. Cornell and S. T. Smeed. The History of Steele County says H. M. Steele was the editor, The Pioneer and Democrat of July 31st says, "the Owatonna Watchman and Register, edited and published by John H. Abbott and A. B. Cornell, a four-page, seven-column, Republican paper, has been received." It is quoted by the Advertiser in its issues of April 4th and of August 22nd, 1857.

The statement was made in the Minnesotian of December 6th, 1856, that H. M. Sheetz, formerly of the Freeport Journal of Freeport, Illinois, was editor of the Watchman and Register. I find no further mention of the paper, except that during 1857 the name was changed to the Owatonna Register, and the name of Mr. Pettit added to the management. Mr. Sheetz was twice elected to the Minnesota Legislature, and died in Owatonna on October 16th, 1859.

On the above facts I base the conclusion that this newspaper must have been started about the 20th of July, 1856, and that it went down in the latter part of 1857 or early in 1858. Its place of publication was Owatonna, Steele county, and it was the thirtieth newspaper started in Minnesota.

### **CANNON FALLS GAZETTE.**



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No issues of the Cannon Falls Gazette are in existence, so far as I can find. The Pioneer and Democrat of August 7th, 1856, notes the first issue. It must therefore have been started about the first of August of that year. It was the thirty-first newspaper started in the Territory, and was a four-page, six-column journal, independent in politics. R. Wilson Hamilton 299 was its editor and proprietor; and its place of publication was Cannon Falls, Goodhue county. It soon passed into the hands of a man named Hatch, who printed it to about the middle of May, 1857, when it stopped. The St. Paul Advertiser of May 31st, 1857, said it had passed into the hands of R. A. Hoag and brother, who bought the plant and started the Bulletin, a somewhat larger paper, in August following. This they printed until after the close of 1857, when they moved the press and material to Northfield, Rice county, and started the Northfield Journal.

Hancock's History of Goodhue County says that Hoag and Brother changed the name of the Bulletin to the Echo, and when the Echo died away they took the plant to Northfield. Another History of Goodhue County insists that the outfit went to Northfield immediately after the failure of the Bulletin, and that a man named Bromwick started the Echo at Cannon Falls. It matters little, however, for they are all dead; and not a single copy of any of them, so far as I know, is in existence.

### **STILLWATER MESSENGER NO. 1.**

In the valedictory of A. J. Van Vorhes, written when he sold the Stillwater Messenger plant to Willard S. Whitmore, I find it stated that the first issue of the Messenger appeared September 15th, 1856. The last issue of Messenger No. 1 was volume 12, No. 27, dated March 11th, 1868. It was a four-page, seven-column, Republican sheet, and the thirty-second in general course in the Territory. A. J. Van Vorhes was owner and editor. W. M. Easton joined him soon afterward, the firm becoming Van Vorhes and Easton, the former still remaining editor. This business relation continued until September 6th, 1862, when the partnership was dissolved and Van Vorhes again became sole owner and editor.

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Later, because of continued absence as quartermaster in the army, Van Vorhes procured the services of A. B. Stickney, now president of the Chicago Great Western Railway, as editor, and his salutatory appears in the issue of May 19th, 1863. A. B. Easton was placed in charge of the mechanical department.

October 1st, 1863, Van Vorhes made a lease of the plant to Stickney and Easton for one year. October 1st, 1864, Stickney retired, and Van Vorhes renewed the lease to Easton for another 300 year. October 3rd, 1865, Van Vorhes resumed control of the Messenger as editor and publisher.

March 11th, 1868, at Volume 12, No. 26, Van Vorhes sold the plant to Willard S. Whitmore, who said he carried the first copy of the Messenger ever printed and that he had been continuously connected with the paper for the preceding four years. This purchase closed the career of the first Messenger. One week thereafter the Stillwater Republican appeared in its place at Volume 1, No 1. Whitmore gave as a reason that the party was on the eve of an important and exciting campaign, and that a name indicative of Republican principles was desirable.

Whitmore ran the Republican until October 4th, 1870, when he sold it to George K. Shaw of Minneapolis, who continued the Republican to Volume 3, No. 40, December 16th, 1870, when he changed the name back to the Stillwater Messenger, and sent it ahead on a jump to Volume 16, No. 15, as though the Stillwater Republican had never been. It has since been issued as the Stillwater Messenger, and is still going.

I do not like to break the publication record of the Messenger; but I must print facts, or my history will be unreliable. The files conclusively show that the Stillwater Messenger, No. 1, died, and that the Republican was started in its stead. That in turn died, and Stillwater Messenger, No. 2. followed it, the same as the Red Wing Sentinel, No. 1, was followed by the Minnesota Gazette, and as that in turn was followed by Sentinel No. 2. Any other procedure would blot out the Republican and Gazette, which had as much right to be

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named as any of the seventeen newspapers which have gone into that omnivorous absorber, the Pioneer Press.

### **ANDREW J. VAN VORHES.**

Andrew J. Van Vorhes was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, June 30th, 1824. He began to set type on his father's paper, the Hocking Valley Gazette in Ohio, at the age of thirteen. He worked there until 1844, when he and his brother Nelson bought the paper and changed its name to the Athens Messenger. In 1847 he was elected recorder of the county. He was also recording clerk in the Ohio Legislature one term. In 1855 he came to Stillwater, Minn., and in 1856 established the Stillwater Messenger and conducted it until 1868, when failing health compelled him to sell and retire from business 301 after twenty-seven years of active journalism. He was a member of the Minnesota Legislature in 1860, and was selected by the government as agent to aid in the Indian payment at Fort Ripley in 1862, when for nine days the fort was invested by the savages. He was also a quartermaster in the army from 1863 to 1865, and served as clerk of the Supreme Court of Minnesota one term. He died in Stillwater January 10th, 1873.

He was an honest, active, painstaking journalist, and the pages of his paper were always clean. As a public officer he was faithful to his trust, and both socially and politically he made many very warm friends.

### **REPUBLICAN ADVOCATE.**

The Republican Advocate was started at Shakopee, Scott county, September 27th, 1856, and was the thirty-third of Territorial papers. A. B. and H. Y. Russell were the publishers. It suspended temporarily in the fall of 1857, and went under permanently early in 1860. It left no files that I can find, and I have not been able to find anything further elsewhere of the Advocate.

### **CHATFIELD DEMOCRAT, NO. 1.**

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I find in the files of the Pioneer and Democrat of May 15th, 1856, that the prospectus of the Chatfield Democrat had been received; and its issue of October 9th, 1856, says it has "received the first number of the paper." The Pioneer and Democrat also commends it for its support of Buchanan and Breckenridge for president and vice-president of the United States. The St. Paul Advertiser of December 27th, 1856, quotes the proceedings of a railroad meeting which was ordered published in the Carimona Telegraph, the Chatfield Democrat, and the Chatfield Republican.

Hon. H. R. Wells of Preston, Fillmore county, is sure that a paper called the Chatfield Democrat was published in Chatfield in 1856, and that it was owned by John H. McKenny and others connected with the United States Land Office, then located in Chatfield. Mrs. Wells, who is a daughter of Mr. McKenny, remembers the paper, but who ran it she cannot tell. General Bishop also mentions the Chatfield Democrat of 1856, in a small pamphlet which he wrote and had printed about that time. The date of the first issue of the Democrat must have been about 302 October 1st, 1856, and it was probably discontinued early in 1857. It comes, therefore, into line as the thirty-fourth newspaper started in the Territory.

### **THE RICE COUNTY HERALD.**

The Rice County Herald was the thirty-fifth newspaper in Minnesota. Its place of publication was Faribault, Rice county. F. W. Frink was its owner and editor. He began it October 22nd, 1856, printed six issues, and then sold the plant to J. L. Pond, who made R. A. Mott editor. Pond printed one more number, the December 3rd issue, when Mott bought the outfit and its publication ceased.

### **THE CHATFIELD REPUBLICAN.**

The first issue of the Chatfield Republican appears to have been printed October 25th, 1856. It was a four-page, seven-column, Republican paper, printed in Chatfield, Fillmore county, and was the thirty-sixth in the Territory. The publishers were J. W. Twilford and

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Co., and the editor H. W. Holley. June 13th, 1857, Orville Brown became one of the editors. The paper was noted for its bitter opposition to the Five Million Dollar Railroad Loan bill, and its columns contained samples of vituperation equal to those of the St. Paul Pioneer under Goodhue.

The parting kick at an editor of another paper who was about to retire is a gem of its kind. Here is the part that landed the hardest. I find it in the December 6th, 1859, issue of the Republican.

Here now he stands, a man who professed to be an editor of a paper, but who was in reality a thing, edited himself by a clique. A man who for a long series of months was a mouthpiece for the utterances of Billingsgate, whose authors were ashamed to acknowledge its paternity; a man who was set on like a barking pup to do the dirty work of a few press owners; a man who wore a collar of the mind slave weakly, submissively, obediently cringing and fawning at the feet of those who fed him, until, worn out in their service, they gave him what such labors sooner or later always bring, ungrateful return for such services rendered, by telling him to go forth, the world was all before him where to choose and Providence his guide.

The Historical Library files of this paper are not complete. The last that I find is Volume 5, No. 49, October 15th, 1861. The press and material was sold shortly after that date, however, 303 and were moved to Preston and used to start the Preston Republican. According to my records, the Fillmore County Pioneer of Carimona, first noticed in this paper, was the first newspaper published in Fillmore county, and the Chatfield Republican was the third.

### **HON. HENRY W. HOLLEY.**

Henry W. Holley was born in Pierrepont Manor, Jefferson county, N. Y., May 5th, 1828. He was graduated from Norwich University, Vermont, a college for engineers, in 1849, and worked as a civil engineer on railroads seven years in Ohio, Indiana, and Wisconsin.

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In 1856 he came to Minnesota, and joined Twilford and Company in establishing the Chatfield Republican. In 1857 he was a member of the Minnesota Constitutional Convention. In 1861 he was appointed receiver of the Winnebago Land Office, and served in that capacity eight years. He was serving a term in the Minnesota Senate when he received this appointment. During part of the time he was receiver he acted as chief engineer of the Southern Minnesota railroad, of which he was one of the original incorporators. He was connected with that road until 1874, the last four years acting as its superintendent and general manager. As Holley was absent a large share of his time, Orville Brown was the chief writer for the columns of the papers with which he and Brown were connected. Holley, however, was a writer of much more than ordinary ability, and a well equipped man in every sense. He moved farther west some years since, and died near Everett, Washington, four or five years ago.

### **ORVILLE BROWN.**

Orville Brown used to be called "Awful Brown" by some of the newspapers of his time. He was probably the author of the editorial of which I have quoted a portion in my notice of the Chatfield Republican. He was born in Ellisburg, Jefferson county, N. Y. November 10th, 1810. He worked at railroading in portions of the west from 1851 to 1856 when he came to Minnesota, locating at Chatfield in 1857, where he became, as I have stated, one of the editors of the Chatfield Republican.

In 1859 the Republican was sued for libel by C. C. Hemphill, the editor and proprietor of the Chatfield Democrat, for one of the bitter articles of the former paper, a sample of which I 304 have given. A verdict of one hundred dollars was rendered in favor of Hemphill, which was set aside by the judge of the district court, and that, I believe, was the end of the suit.

After selling the plant of the Republican, Holley and Brown bought the press and material of the Faribault Herald, which was established by R. A. Mort, December 10th, 1856, after

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he had bought and extinguished the Rice County Herald. Holley and Brown put out the light of the Faribault Herald, in turn, and began the Central Republican on June 23d, 1858, Orville Brown being editor, which still runs as the Faribault Republican. Holley and Brown ran the Central Republican, Brown still remaining editor, until November 20th, 1861, when Holley retired. Brown continued alone until December 20th, 1865, when he sold to A. W. McKinstry.

In January, 1869, Mr. Brown purchased the Mankato Record of John C. Wise. Griswold, of the Mankato Union, once said that the Record was Democratic by profession, but not any too much so by practice. Brown turned it into a Republican paper and published it until he retired from the newspaper business, October 25th, 1879. Mr. Brown was appointed postmaster at Mankato in 1873, and held the office until 1884. He was a man of exemplary character, but strong in his likes and dislikes, and in his newspaper days kept things in a stir wherever he went. He died in St. Paul, January 5th, 1901, in the ninety-first year of his age.

### **THE NORTHERN HERALD.**

The Northern Herald, published first at Watab, Benton county, and afterward at Little Falls, Morrison county, was the thirty-seventh newspaper started in Minnesota. No copies seem to be in existence. I find the first notices of it in the Minnesotian of November 18th, 1856, and the Pioneer and Democrat of November 20th, 1856. The latter paper says that the material for the Herald was purchased from the Pioneer and Democrat. The Herald must have started about November 15th, 1856. It was owned by Parker H. French. It is mentioned in the issues of the Minnesotian of November 18th and 22nd, as located at Watab; and the statement is made that "new papers are multiplying so fast that it is difficult to keep track of them."

It was published by E. C. Church. French moved the paper to Little Falls shortly after its start at Watab, ran it a few months 305 and then sold it to the Little Falls Manufacturing

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Company. Church succeeded French as editor, and it went on about two years thereafter, when it was wrecked in the financial storm following 1857.

### **PARKER H. FRENCH.**

All I have been able to learn of Parker H. French is that he was said to have been Walker's secretary of state, when the latter attempted to filibuster Nicaragua. On his arrival in Minnesota with his family, he was introduced by the Pioneer and Democrat of August 21st, 1856, as the United States minister to Nicaragua. Later on September 6th, the Minnesotian says that French and his associates had gone on an exploring trip into northern Minnesota, west of Leech and Sandy lakes, And that he intended to bring a number of families from the south to settle there in the spring of 1857.

After selling the Herald, French went to California, and the St. Paul Advertiser of June 20th, 1857, said he had been advertised to begin a daily in Sacramento about May 1st of that year. The St. Paul Minnesotian of January 1st, 1859, made the announcement that French had become the publisher of the Evening Sentinel, a new paper in New York, and that Hon. Mike Walsh, member of Congress from that city, was helping him run it. This is the last trace I find of him.

### **AN INDEPENDENT EDITOR.**

In examining the files of the early newspapers of Minnesota for facts to picture Territorial journalism, I came upon an editorial showing that as late as 1856 something of the old meataxe style of journalism still survived outside the Chatfield Republican. I did not note the name of the paper or editor. That, however, does not matter.

It seems that a country paper had been established upon the usual understanding that the owner was to have a certain amount of patronage from the people of the new town to keep him from starving. They didn't do as they agreed. So he cut his paper down to a four-column, nine by twelve sheet, and went at the delinquents in a new prospectus as follows:



## **INDEPENDENT OF ALL SAVE THE MERCIES OF GOD.**

This paper will no sooner advocate what its editor believes to be a humbug than a hard-shell Baptist will baptize an infant by immersion 20 306 or an adult by sprinkling. He will publish in it just what he mill-dam please, without fear or favor, and almost without hope of the reward to which he is legally and morally entitled for services rendered a community marked by piety, parsimony, temperance, and elastic consciences, and who are, and have been, financially and irreligiously kicking a public servant who has done his whole duty. He has honestly upheld the justice of removing the county seat and shown the benefits arising therefrom. He will talk turkey when in the turkey mood, and gabble gossip when he listeth. He will battle for his rights against the world, the flesh, and the devil. He will try to live on property he earned before his advent into this blue-bellied land of sectarian cut-throats and pimps of pious hypocrisy, will claim the right to sue and be sued, will wear a common seal, and, like the register of deeds of Jackson county, raise hell generally, and will probably be remembered as the man all tattered and torn. Terms, one dollar and a half, invariably in advance.

## **THE FARIBAULT HERALD.**

Were it not for the fact that the Faribault Herald begins at Vol. 1, No. 1, I would call it the continuation of the Rice County Herald, which had a life of only seven weeks, when its press and material were purchased by R. A. Mott and used to start the Faribault Herald. Mott saw fit to snuff out the Rice County Herald entirely and begin a new newspaper, so I must chronicle it as such, and name it the thirty-eighth paper in regular Territorial course. Though it increases the list of these early newspapers somewhat, I see no other way to preserve identity and avoid confusion.

Volume 1, No. 1, is dated December 10th, 1856, its place of publication Faribault, Rice county, with R. A. Mott as editor and proprietor. He ran it until June 2nd, 1858, when he sold the plant to Holley and Brown, who unceremoniously stopped the Faribault Herald,

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in turn, and started a new volume and number on June 23d, 1858, called the Central Republican, which today is still running usefully and vigorously under the name of the Faribault Republican as has already been stated.

### **R. A. MOTT.**

R. A. Mott was born in Warren, New York, December 6th, 1825. He studied law with James H. Collins in Chicago in 1848, went overland to California in 1850, returned in 1852, and in the spring of 1856 came to Faribault. He joined J. L. Pond as editor of the Rice County Herald in October of that year, and having purchased the plant began the issue of the 307 Faribault Herald on December 10th, as has been stated. After selling the paper to Holley and Brown in 1858, he was admitted to the bar, and has since followed it as his profession.

Mr. Mott has been county attorney of Faribault two terms; county superintendent of schools several years; and in 1880 he was elected to the state legislature, He has always taken a great interest in the state institutions of Faribault, and has aided them greatly in various ways.

### **THE MONTICELLO JOURNAL.**

The press and material of the Monticello Journal, the thirty-ninth newspaper printed in Minnesota, were brought to Monticello, Wright county, in the latter part of November, 1856, by H. C. Bunce; and the first issue was set up and printed mainly by D. L. Kingsbury, now assistant librarian of the Minnesota Historical Society. He does not remember the date of that issue, but it was some time about the middle of December, 1856. The health of Mr. Bunce failed, and he sold the press and material to a syndicate which started the Monticello Times, May 21st, 1857.

### **THE ORONOCO COURIER.**

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The Oronoco Courier is another weekly newspaper of which no copies seem to be in existence. It was the fortieth newspaper, and the first trace of it appears in the St. Paul Minnesotian, which says in its issue of December 20th, 1856, "The first number of the Oronoco Courier, of Oronoco, Olmsted county, is received." It seems to have been edited by D. H. Galloway and E. Allen Power, and belonged to a stock company, and the press and materials were purchased in Dubuque, Iowa. It was neutral in politics and was started evidently to boom the town of Oronoco, which was platted less than two years after the first white settler came into that part of the country.

The St. Paul Advertiser termed it one of the ablest conducted newspapers in Minnesota. Dr. Galloway left the paper shortly after it started and went to Rochester, and afterward settled in Fargo, North Dakota. That is the latest trace of him that I have. Power wrote his valedictory and left the paper July 3rd, 1857, and later was elected to the legislature when Minnesota became a state. The Courier then passed into the hands of Alfred E. Sawyer. It ran on until late in December, 1857, 308 when the Advertiser of the 26th of that month quotes its terse valedictory to its subscribers, as follows: "This number is the last you will receive of the Oronoco Courier. It has fulfilled its mission. It was an institution of Oronoco, and now it is not."

### **THE CARIMONA TELEGRAPH.**

The Carimona Telegraph followed the demise of the Fillmore County Pioneer. It was printed, in Carimona, in that county; and, as nearly as I can time it, was the forty-first paper started in the Territory, and the eighteenth in 1856. There are no copies in existence, so far as I can learn. In fact, the only record of it that I can find is in the St. Paul Advertiser of 1856 and 1857. Under date of December 27th, 1856, that paper published the proceedings of a railroad meeting in Carimona which was ordered published in the Carimona Telegraph, Chatfield Democrat, and Chatfield Republican. The Advertiser quoted the Telegraph again under date of January 31st, 1857, and that is all I can definitely learn about it. As the Fillmore County Pioneer, described in the early part of this

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paper, lived nearly a year, the Telegraph probably very closely followed it, and then in turn went under just before the Western Transcript was started in Carimona in May, 1857. The village was too small to support two papers at a time; and, of the three it had, the hardiest lived less than a year. It would seem, therefore, either that the town site company wore out printers pretty fast, or that Carimona was an unhealthy place for newspapers in those early days.

### **SUMMARY, 1856.**

Of the eighteen new papers started in 1856, seventeen went down early. Fourteen of them were so completely swept away that no copies remain that I can find. For the remaining four, I find broken files of the Henderson Democrat, Stillwater Messenger, and Chatfield Republican. Of the Dakota Weekly Journal a single copy is all that seems to have been preserved. Only two of the eighteen run today under the original names. They are the Stillwater Messenger and the Chatfield Democrat. The Messenger died, and the Stillwater Republican arose on its grave. The Messenger, however, was afterward resurrected, as I have described in my record of that paper, and is still living. 309 The Chatfield Democrat was resurrected by Hemphill, and started under new volume and number, September 11th, 1857.

The only way I have been able to follow these vanished newspapers has been by a laborious hunt through county histories and files of contemporaneous journals, and by correspondence with old settlers. Many will have doubts as to whether the search will pay. As for me, I know that these old journals had much to do in building the foundations of Minnesota, and as one of her Territorial pioneers I am proud to contribute this series of papers to the Historical Society as my tribute to their memory.

### **Fourth Paper, January 1st to August 25th, 1857.**

The small remnant of Minnesota business men now living who were here between 1854 and 1861, still vividly recall how it feels to go through the rise and fall of a boom period.

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Everything seemed to be in the air and moving briskly in those days. Not even corner lots could be held down. I remember a townsite promoter of 1857 who embellished one of his plats with churches, schoolhouses, county and business buildings, and fine residences, when there was only a claim shanty on the whole outfit, and while yet the country was nearly bare of farm improvements for miles around. He took his townsite plat to Washington while Congress was in session, having only money enough to pay the railroad fare and about two weeks' living in a cheap boarding house. Before the close of the first week, he moved into a suite of finely furnished rooms in the best hotel in the city, and, it was said that he returned to Minnesota in the spring with about ten thousand dollars realized from lots in that townsite. To make those sales, he had talked fiction during the winter; but I have reason to think he honestly believed, that the millions he saw in the air over that quarter section fully justified the fiction.

### **CURED OF TOWNSITE FEVER.**

I was one of a company of four who were tangled among townsites along the Red river of the North in 1857; therefore, 310 I have charity for men who got boom fever into their blood. J. W. Prentiss and myself, J. C. Moulton, our agent, Pierre Bottineau and his brother Charlie, who were our guides, with four teamsters, making a total of nine men, started from St. Paul, January 2nd, 1857. Our destination was the junction of the Bois des Sioux and Otter Tail rivers, where Breckenridge and Wahpeton now stand. We had two long sleds, built for hard usage, and five yoke of oxen. Our route was by way of St. Cloud, lake Whipple, lake Pomme de Terre, and Lightning lake. We were twenty-seven days getting through, and six of us lived out there through the hardest February, March, and April, 1 have ever seen. After the first week out the snow averaged two feet deep on the unburned prairie, and from six inches to a foot where it had been burned over. The surface of the latter, swept by forty degrees below zero winds, was covered by a sharp crust that bit the legs of our cattle sorely. During the latter part of the trip, they were swelled to three times their natural size, and nearly every step they made was stained with blood. The

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depressions of the trail were everywhere drifted full, and where we could not get around them, they had to be shoveled through.

The extreme severity of the winter and spring made relief impossible until May 11th. In the meantime, nine of our ten oxen had starved to death, there being nothing available for them after the first week of February, but elm browse. Before the close of February, our own supplies had become so exhausted that we had to eat the attenuated hams of our starved-to-death cattle.

From April 13th until May 11th a little Englishman, whom we called Billy, and I, held down a townsite opposite Graham's Point, near where McCauleyville now is. We found patches of woods along the river down there, where we shot squirrels, prairie chickens, and rabbits, now and then, and when that supply failed us, we alternated with boiled cat fish and tea, without salt or other condiments.

I returned to St. Anthony in June, and went back to newspaper editing, thoroughly cured of my townsite fever; and, though more than forty-six years have passed, I have not seen a rod of that country since. The quarter share of lots coming to me, in three townsites we platted that winter, went for taxes many years ago, and all now are farms.

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This incident of my pioneer life in Minnesota is related to show the almost lunatic wildness here in the fifties. The rush for the new lands and business of the Northwest quite equaled the stampede to the gold fields of California in 1849. Sixteen of eighteen steamboats often lay at the St. Paul landings at one time, discharging passengers and freight. May 7th, 1857, twenty-four steamboats were here. One boat, the War Eagle, brought up 814 people on a single trip.

Of course, the newspaper business boomed in those times, with everything else. Nine new weekly newspapers were added in 1855 to the fourteen already established in Minnesota. In 1856 eighteen more came. To these were added twenty-eight more in 1857. One daily,

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the Falls Evening News, was also started. The year 1857 began, therefore, with a total of forty-one weeklies and five dailies, and it closed with sixty-nine weeklies and six dailies. Of course, not nearly all of these were living at the close of 1857. But think of this number of newspapers spread over the then sparsely populated territory of Minnesota!

### **LAKE CITY TRIBUNE.**

The forty-second weekly newspaper established in Minnesota was mentioned by the Pioneer and Democrat of January 15th, 1857, which said: "The first number of the Lake City Tribune, published and edited by Doughty, Tibbetts, and Dwelle, has come." The St. Paul Advertiser of January 17th also announces the arrival of the first number! The Advertiser quotes it as late as June 12th, 1858. Its place of publication was Lake City, Wabasha county, and it probably was the first newspaper published there. From G. M. Dwelle, son of one of the proprietors of the paper, I learn that he has number one of volume one of the Tribune, and that it is dated January 3rd, 1857. It is treasured as an heirloom by his family. The editor of the paper was A. A. Norwood. Mr. Dwelle says he also has a copy of the date of September 18th, 1858, where the names of D. C. Story and A. A. Norwood appear as editors; and a copy dated May 5th, 1860, in which the name of Elijah Porter appears as editor and publisher. Three copies of this paper, all that I know to be preserved, show thus three editorial changes in three years.

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### **THE MINNESOTA ADVERTISER**

was the forty-third newspaper of Minnesota. Its proprietor was George F. Brott, one of the projectors of Bois des Sioux City and other towns surveyed on our expedition to the Red river of the North in 1857, and one of the chief promoters of St. Cloud, Stearns county, in its early days. This was the first newspaper started in St. Cloud. Its editor was my old friend, Henry W. Cowles, a talented young attorney, now deceased, who came from one

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of the southern states and located first at St. Anthony, and afterward at St. Cloud. C. W. West was its publisher. It was independent in politics.

As the earliest number of the paper in the Historical Society Library is No. 7 of Volume I, dated February 26th, 1857, its first issue would be dated January 15th. The History of Stearns County, however, claims that the paper began January 1st, 1857, and that James Mowatt was the publisher. If so, he must have retired before February 26th, for that issue has the name of West at the head of its columns. As Mowatt was a good, practical printer, it is probable that really he was foreman of the paper. Cowles soon resigned and was succeeded by James C. Shepley, another attorney. In the fall of 1857, Brott discontinued the Advertiser. It was run chiefly as a townsite promoter.

### **GEORGE F. BROTT.**

Brott was about the best sample of the western hustler that this region has ever produced. His town assets were scattered promiscuously over northern Minnesota. It used to be said that, no matter where Brott decided to plant a town, all he had to do was to step out into the surrounding hazel brush to find tools to do it with. Debts troubled him no more than rain troubles a duck. Why need debts worry him? He always had town lots to pay them with, until the crash of 1857 crippled him, when he drifted south, trading himself as he went into another fortune. After the war, he settled in Washington, and a few months ago he died. Hustling, jovial, joking, impulsive George F. Brott, like Henry McKenty, was a product of the wild, free, pioneer Northwest. The last of such men went with the buffalo, and the mold in which they were cast was long since broken and swept away by the advancing tide of immigration.

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### **HYRORUM RAPIDS.**

Most of the newspapers of territorial times in Minnesota were started to help sell lots in the young towns where they were located. They seldom had enough subscription and



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advertising backing to pay their running expenses and the livings of their editors. They were important helpers, however, in getting new towns on their feet; and when one editor starved out or stepped higher politically, professionally, or in business ways, some new briefless lawyer, or other bright, but moneyless young man was willing to take his place, and to try for a lift in turn. So it came that early journalistic duties were performed mainly by a lot of peripatetic editors, many of them forceful, brilliant fellows, who afterward make high marks in business and the professions. Some of the advertisements, circulars, and editorials, that exploited towns, used adjectives freely and misused truth shamefully. A burlesque of the highfalutin descriptions usually employed in such service was printed in the Cedar Falls Banner and republished in the St. Paul Advertiser in 1857. It purported to give a start to a town called Hyrorum Rapids. "Hyrorum," it said, "is situated in a lovely dell, on all sides of which picturesque rocks rear their vine-clad heads, their bases fanned by waving ferns and draped in golden moss. Winding around these picturesque features of the landscape, are verdant paths leading to cozy nooks, bespangled with flowers of such bewildering sweetness that a miser would fling aside his gold and tear his hair in despair in having but one nose; he would sit down, fold up the wings of his fancy, and weep that there was nothing left for imagination. There are no advantages of location in this beautiful town. All lots, wherever situated, are five hundred dollars each, and cheap at double the price."

### THE OLMSTED COUNTY JOURNAL

was the forty-fourth newspaper started in Minnesota. The first number of this newspaper seems to have been received by the St. Paul Advertiser April 25th, 1857. I have dated it April 20th, because after diligent search I can find no other record of its first issue than the Advertiser gives. Allowing five days for the Journal to get to St. Paul, and into the Advertiser, 314 would bring the date about April 20th, and so I start it at that. It was independent in politics, backed by Evans and Robbins, and was the first newspaper

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published in Rochester, Olmsted county. After printing the paper a short time; Evans and Robbins sold the plant to John H. Hyatt and Martin L. Stewart.

The St. Paul Pioneer of November 19th, 1857, announced its suspension on account of the financial failures following the downfall of the Ohio Life and Trust Company, which occurred on August 25th of that year. On February 3rd, 1858, the material of the Journal was used to start a paper called the Rochester Free Press. I cannot find any of the files of the Olmsted County Journal, nor can I get any more details of its brief history.

### **THE WAUMADEE HERALD**

was the forty-fifth newspaper. About the 10th of May, 1857, two brothers, Joseph and Thomas A. McMasters, started this newspaper at Read's Landing, Wabasha county. At that time, it was thought by some of its citizens that Read's Landing was too prosaic and practical a name to head the paper. The McMasters brothers were of like mind, hence the romantic name of "Waumadee Herald." On the 12th of May, a short time after the first issue was worked off the press, the publication of the Herald came to a sudden and painful pause, for the accidental overturn of the sailboat Chippewa on the Mississippi at Read's Landing, in a gale of wind, drowned both of its proprietors. Four men were in the boat, two of whom were saved.

About six weeks after this accident, Norman Stevens, a young printer, came to Read's Landing from Illinois, procured the aid of some of the business men of the village, bought the Herald plant of the father of the McMasters, and renewed the publication of the paper. As the St. Paul Advertiser of August 15th, 1857, quotes the Waumadee Herald, it must have been continued by Stevens under that name for some time after his purchase. The History of Wabasha County claims that Stevens did not continue the Waumadee Herald, but started the Wabasha County Herald on June 27th, 1857, the date when he bought the material from the elder McMasters. Clearly the history is wrong, for not only does the Advertiser quote the Waumadee Herald as above, but Vol. 2, No. 22, of the Wabasha

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County Herald, dated January 29th, 1859, is in the Historical Society Library. Dating back from that number would bring Vol. 1, No. 1, of the Wabasha Herald to September 5th, 1857, which is only twenty days after the last recorded notice of the Waumadee Herald. The truth of the matter probably is that Stevens, tiring of the name "Waumadee Herald," cut it out and began volume one, number one, of the Wabasha County Herald on the fifth of September, 1857.

### **THE WESTERN TRANSCRIPT**

was the forty-sixth newspaper in the territory. It was the third paper started in the little town of Carimona, Fillmore county, within about sixteen months. The two previously started died in early infancy. The Transcript seems to have followed closely the demise of the Carimona Telegraph. The earliest notice of it that I find is in the St. Paul Advertiser of May 30th, 1857. It says it had "just received the first number of the Western Transcript, published at Carimona by I. W. Lucas." It must have started, therefore, about May 20th, 1857. It did not last long, as the July 11th, 1857, issue of the Advertiser announced its suspension. As near as I can find, that was the final newspaper effort in Carimona. No numbers of the Western Transcript seem to be in existence.

### **THE MONTICELLO TIMES**

was the forty-seventh newspaper in my record. It was the six-columned successor of the Monticello Journal, mentioned in my history of 1856. Its first number was dated Thursday, May 21st, 1857. The editors were Rev. S. T. Creighton, one of the proprietors of the town, and J. F. Bradley. C. M. Kenton was assistant editor, and also publisher and proprietor. It was neutral in politics.

June 18th, 1857, Bradley withdrew, and Creighton and Kenton were announced as editors. In July following, Creighton and George F. Brott, of the St. Cloud Advertiser, got into a rather heated controversy over the relative population of Monticello and St. Cloud. Brott was chief promoter of the latter town. In reply to an article reflecting on Creighton, the

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latter came 316 back at Brott in a way worthy of the best days of Goodhue and Parson Brownlow. Here is a sample extract:

“Mr. Brott says something about wringing the parson's nasal organ. We wonder what the parson would be doing in the meantime.” He then winds up his article by representing the parson as fallen from grace, and that the relation which he sustained to the church in Monticello as pastor might be dissolved by mutual consent of the parties. “As to grace, we never did have, and have not now, much to brag about; still, we have a comfortable hope of weathering the storm and at last having a home in that upper city, equal, if not superior, in size and beauty to St. Cloud. As regards our pastoral relations they still exist, and we are permitted to preach every Sunday to what appears to be a well satisfied congregation.”

But to conclude the matter, Brott said, “When we came to the Territory, he took us to his bosom and warmed us into life, and received in return a fatal sting! Warmed into life! We never bought a cent's worth of property of him, never sold him a cent's worth, never borrowed a dollar of him, nor loaned him a dollar; never acted with him one minute in any business whatever. His interests have always been opposed to ours, and he has acted accordingly. If this is heat, Good Lord, save us from the cold?” S. T. Creighton was a Methodist minister; I knew him well.

September 12th, 1857, Creighton resigned the senior editorship of the Times, and was succeeded by Edward Hartley. Kenton still remained as assistant editor, publisher, and proprietor. At the same date, the publication day of the Times was changed to Saturday. The issue of October 24th appeared with Hartley's name missing. Kenton remained sole editor and proprietor. March 3d, 1858, the publication day was changed from Saturday to Wednesday.

June 26th, after a suspension of six weeks, the Times appeared with a new dress. Kenton was announced as publisher, and the place of editor and proprietor was vacant, though it was generally understood that Kenton still remained editor. In January, 1859, there came

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the usual number of half sheets to carry legal advertisements to a safe conclusion, and on February 16th the Times died, and the remains went to Z. M. Brown, one of the proprietors of Monticello.

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### **THE MINNESOTA FREE PRESS**

was the forty-eighth newspaper established in the Territory. The first number was dated May 27th, 1857. It was printed at St. Peter, Nicollet county. William C. Dodge was its editor and proprietor. It was a Republican weekly of eight columns at the beginning; but, on November 18th, finding it carried too much sail, it contracted to seven columns. Even that spread was found too much for the locality and times, and soon afterward it was temporarily discontinued.

April 20th, 1859, an alliance was made with J. K. Moore, and the name changed to St. Peter Free Press, without losing volume or number in the process. Dodge and Moore seemed to be doing finely together until December 21st, 1859, when the plant was totally destroyed by fire with no insurance. That ended the St. Peter Free Press. The St. Paul Advertiser called it the Salt Petre Flea Press, showing that Wheelock began early to invent words to fit things he didn't like.

### **THE MINNESOTA THALBOTEN**

was the forty-ninth newspaper. It was the second German paper established in the Territory. Frederick Orthwein, who started the Minnesota Deutsche Zeitung in 1855, and Albert Wolff, were the originators of the Minnesota Thalboten. It was a small Democratic quarto, and appeared at Chaska, Carver county, during the first week in June, 1857. The Zeitung was started by the Democrats. Orthwein soon went over to the Republicans. Then he turned back to the Democrats. The departure of Orthwein from the Zeitung was thus heralded by the St. Paul Minnesotian: "The Minnesota Zeitung has taken a resting spell

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by getting clear of its old editor, Orthwein, and is out again in fine style as a Republican paper.”

Shortly after the Thalboten was started, the Democrats of the nineteenth district, consisting of Carver and Wright counties, nominated Orthwein for the House of the Minnesota legislature. He was defeated at the fall election, and early in 1858 he pulled up stakes in Chaska and returned to St. Paul, where he had still another paper, which he called the Minnesota National Demokrat. He filled out the unexpired subscription list of the former 318 with the latter paper. No issues of the Thalboten are in the Historical Library, nor can I find any trace of them elsewhere. Orthwein's trading his Democracy to the Republicans in 1856, and then switching back again, infuriated John P. Owens, the rough and ready editor of the Minnesotian, who was the St. Paul Republican standard-bearer.

### **MINNESOTA NATIONAL DEMOKRAT.**

The first appearance of this paper in the Historical Library, is at number forty of volume one, dated March 6th, 1858. This would date the first issue on June 6th, 1857, which is about the date of the first issue of the Minnesota Thalboten of Chaska, which history says was started by Orthwein and Albert Wolff the first week of June, 1857. I think the Thalboten was issued first, and so I have numbered the Demokrat the fiftieth newspaper in general course, being the third German paper started in the Territory.

As no numbers of the Thalboten are in existence, and as Orthwein probably had his hands full with the work of starting the Demokrat in St. Paul, I incline to the belief that Albert Wolff, who had taken a government claim in Carver county, was in charge of the Thalboten at the outset of its career. The Thalboten could not have lasted long, for I find the March 6th, 1858, issue of the Demokrat filling out its unexpired subscription list.

### **THE MANKATO INDEPENDENT.**

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I have to go to files of other 1857 newspapers to get the date of the beginning of the Mankato Independent, the fifty-first newspaper started in, Minnesota Territory. The St. Paul Advertiser, that faithful chronicler of 1857 newspapers, says, in its issue of June 13th, that the first number of the Mankato Independent had arrived. The June 10th issue of the Valley Herald makes the same announcement, and the Pioneer and Democrat of June 18th says the same. Therefore it was probably begun some time during the first week in June, 1857. The first issue that the Historical Society has is dated August 9th, 1860, and is Volume 4, No. 5, of a semi-weekly published Monday and Thursday. At that date, Hensley and Gunning were publishers and 319 proprietors, and it was a four-page, five-column, Republican sheet. The History of the Minnesota Valley says that Hensley and Gunning started the paper July 8th, 1862. I find it was issued on Tuesdays and Fridays; and on October 4th, 1862, it was a weekly newspaper published on Saturday.

Mr. Hensley died December 20th, 1862. The paper was continued until July 11th, 1863, when it was sold to Charles H. Slocum, the last publisher of the St. Anthony Express, a paper whose mortuary exercises I conducted in May, 1861. Slocum bought the press and material of the Independent, and interred the defunct enterprise with appropriate ceremonies; and on July 17th, 1863, began volume one, number one, of a seven-column paper called the Mankato Union, before the hearse which had borne the Independent had fairly got out of the already crowded graveyard of early journalism. The Union finally became the property of Gen. J. H. Baker, who merged it with the Mankato Record, and the Union became the Free Press which is still running.

### **THE EMIGRANT AID JOURNAL.**

was the fifty-second of the rapidly increasing newspapers of Minnesota. This is another paper of which I can get no trace, except through history and contemporaneous journals. The St. Paul Advertiser of July 4th, 1857, says, "The second number of the Emigrant Aid Journal has come." This will date the first issue about the middle of June. It was printed at Nininger, Dakota county, and was independent, as usual, in politics. Hon.

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Ignatius Donnelly was the originator, and A. W. McDonald, at one time connected with the Scientific American, was its editor. It is said that the citizens of Nininger contributed one thousand dollars the first year to give the paper a footing. The St. Paul Advertiser quotes the paper as late as April 10th, 1858. How long it lived after that, is uncertain. It is generally understood, however, that it was about two years old when it died.

### **THE HOKAH CHIEF**

was the fifty-third newspaper started in Minnesota. It was published in Hokah, Houston county. I have had an unusually vexatious 320 hunt for the scattered fragments of this newspaper. No early files seem to be in existence. Volume 1, No. 31, the earliest number that I have seen, is dated March 27th, 1858, and would bring Vol. 1, No. 1, to the date of August 29th, 1857. There must have been some of the temporary suspensions usual in getting new newspapers under way in those days, as the St. Paul Advertiser of July 18th, 1857, announces the appearance of the first number, which must therefore have been issued about July 10th, 1857. It was a four-page, seven-column, independent paper, run in its first desultory issues by Charles Reynolds. Late in 1858 or early in 1859, it was suspended entirely. H. Ostrander, a practical printer and graduate from the office of the Albany Evening Journal, an indefatigable hustler, came to Hokah, calked the open seams of the stranded Chief, pried it off the bar, and on April 26th, 1859, floated it anew. When he couldn't pay for help, he ran the craft alone. May 23rd, 1865, after about six years of that sort of struggle, the Chief turned up its toes and died.

Along in the seventies, another Hokah Chief with a new volume and number, was started. This on January 18th, 1893, became the present Houston County Chief, which is still going.

### **THE SOUTHERN MINNESOTA STAR**

was the fifty-fourth newspaper in regular course. This is still another of which I can find no copies. It was published at Albert Lea, Freeborn county. The St. Paul Advertiser, in its



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issue of July 25th, 1857, mentioned the receipt of the first number. The St. Paul Pioneer of November 19th announced its temporary suspension, owing to financial troubles: and the St. Paul Advertiser of May 29th, 1858, said the Star had died, and charged its decease to the town proprietors. The History of Freeborn County says that Swineford and Gray began the Star on July 11th, 1857. The plant was soon sold under foreclosure of mortgage held by George S. Ruble, one of the proprietors of the town of Albert Lea. Concerning the early newspapers published there, Isaac Botsford says in the Freeborn County Eagle of February 18th, 1860: "Swineford and Gray continued the Southern Minnesota Star thirty-nine weeks, then H. F. Gray published one 321 number, making forty full numbers for the Star." It was independent in politics.

The Freeborn County Standard, in its issue of May 14th, 1868, says: "The Minnesota Star was first issued July 11th, 1857, and ran about eight months, and died for lack of Democratic support. The press and material lay idle about six months. It was then sold under mortgage foreclosure by George S. Ruble, and went to Alfred P. Swineford, one of the former proprietors of the Star. With it he started the Freeborn County Eagle. Isaac Botsford succeeded to this." Mr. Botsford is the man who announced in his prospectus that he would take for subscriptions anything that grew that he could use, and everything that could be made, except counterfeit money.

### **THE MANTORVILLE EXPRESS.**

was the fifty-fifth newspaper. It was begun in Mantorville, Dodge county, July 16th, 1857. The founder of the paper was J. E. Bancroft. It was independent in politics. C. W. Blaisdell bought a press and material for a paper at Wasioja, a few miles from Mantorville, and there was considerable rivalry between him and Bancroft for a start.

Bancroft's outfit was loaded into a lumber wagon, behind a yoke of oxen, and in crossing the Zumbro river, near Oronoco, the wagon capsized, mixing the type into pi, and wetting down the type before it was needed for the press. This gave Blaisdell so much advantage

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that he thought there was no need for special hurry. Bancroft, however, was a hustler. He had things pretty well advanced when a man from Wasioja came along about half drunk, on the morning of July 15th, and bragged how Wasioja was coming out ahead of Mantorville in a newspaper way. Bancroft pumped him until he found that Blaisdell intended to start his paper on the 17th. Hardly was his informant out of sight on his way to Rochester, when Bancroft enlisted his wife and all hands for a day and night hustle to get out the Express. Meals were brought to the office, and everybody worked with such small waste of time that, when the Wasioja man came along the next afternoon, the Express was on the street, and he was presented with a copy to take home, with the compliments of Bancroft and 21 322 Mantorville. That is how volume one, number one, of the Mantorville Express came to be dated July 16th, and the first issue of the Wasioja Gazette July 17th.

July 31st, 1858, A. LaDue became associated with Bancroft as publisher. February 5th, 1859, LaDue retired. July 30th, 1859, P. C. Compton joined Bancroft, and the paper was enlarged to seven columns. March 24th, 1860, Compton withdrew, and Bancroft ran the paper alone until March, 1866, when he died. His wife went on with the paper, without the lapse of a single issue, but hesitated to let her name appear at the head of the editorial columns until her management had proved a success. July 27th, 1866, a little over four months after the death of Bancroft, the name of his wife, C. E. F. Bancroft, appeared at the head of the paper. She continued to edit and manage it until July 23rd, 1869. Then began a series of editorial changes, of which I have counted sixteen after Bancroft up to November 1st, 1881. The Express survived them all, however, and is still running.

### **JOHN EARLE BANCROFT.**

John E. Bancroft began the Mantorville Express July 16th, 1857, as already stated. He came from Pennsylvania to Wisconsin and then to Mantorville, the year before starting his paper. He was not a man of strong physique, and the hard, self-sacrificing work of building

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his newspaper on firm foundations so told on his stock of vitality that he died in the spring of 1866. The editor of another paper, writing of Bancroft, said:

We do not know that he left an enemy in the world, yet he was outspoken against vice, firm in the maintenance of principle, and unsparing in his denunciations of wrong. His character needs nor the aid of eulogy, his life was the best eulogium. He lived long enough to secure a permanent and honorable place in the history of our country and state, and a lasting remembrance in the hearts of those who knew him best.

### **THE WASIOJA GAZETTE**

was the fifty-sixth newspaper established in the Territory. The Historical Society does not have any of its issues, nor can I find any elsewhere. July 25th, 1857, the St. Paul Advertiser announced the receipt of its first number, and my account of 323 the publication of the Mantorville Express fixes the exact date as July 17th, 1857. C. W. Blaisdell was editor and proprietor. Like the Express, the Gazette was independent in politics. The Express of July 24th, 1858, announced S. L. Pierce, a well known attorney, formerly of St. Paul, but now of Redwood Falls, Minn., as associate editor of the Gazette during volume two, then just beginning. The Gazette lived a little over two years, and its place of publication was Wasioja, Dodge county.

About the last of October, 1859, Blaisdell moved his Gazette plant to Rochester, and began the Rochester City News, but finally sold it to U. B. Shaver, who took it to Kasson and started the Dodge County Republican. Mr. Pierce did most of the editorial work on the News while it was running. Blaisdell was a good printer, and after leaving Rochester he went to Chicago, and was for a number of years in charge of the advertising work on the Chicago Times. He retired some years ago and made his home at Los Angeles, California.

### **SQUIRE L. PIERCE.**

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S. L. Pierce was born March 6th, 1832, at Trenton, Ohio. He studied law with M. B. Chadwick, and at the age of twenty-one was admitted to the bar. He moved to Wasioja in 1856, and lived there and at Mantorville until 1872, when he moved to St. Paul. He practiced law in this city until 1902, and then went to Redwood Falls, where he now lives. He held the office of county attorney of Dodge county for two terms, from 1860.

Mr. Pierce always had a strong bent towards journalism. Besides acting as editor for the Wasioja Gazette and Rochester News, as before stated, he wrote for the Mantorville Express and assisted both Mr. and Mrs. Bancroft in editing and publishing it. While living in Mantorville, he contributed regularly, over the signature of "Occasional," to the Winona Republican.

### **RED WING SENTINEL, NO. 2,**

is the name I have given to the fifty-seventh newspaper begun in Minnesota. The Sentinel No. 1 was the seventeenth in regular course, and its history has been given among the newspapers, 324 of 1855. After Merritt and Hutchins sold the press and materials of the Sentinel, No. 1, to Alexis Bailly, it went to Hastings, as has been stated. The Gazette was then started by N. V. and C. Bennett, and Merritt went into the hotel business. Tiring of that business, he bought the Gazette, according to the St. Paul Advertiser, about June 1st, 1857, and ran it under that name until about August 1st of that year, as the Advertiser quotes the Gazette as late as July 25th. The issue of August 1st of the Advertiser then makes its first mention of the Sentinel, so that must have been about the time the change was made.

Bennett, in the meantime, formed another alliance with William Colvill, afterward well known as the colonel of the First Minnesota regiment, so that the latter became editor of Sentinel No. 2, as he formerly had been of No. 1. Bennett also became its publisher, and, without further ceremony, the volume and numbers of Red Wing Sentinel, No. 1, were picked up and carried on, the same as though there had been no sate of the press and

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material of the old Sentinel to Bailly, no valedictory of the Sentinel, as noted by the Pioneer and Democrat of May 15th, 1855, and no intervening publication of the Minnesota Gazette to supply its place.

On March 26th, 1859, Merritt sold again, and on April 9th, 1859, E. A. Littlefield and Martin Maginnis, the latter afterward delegate to Congress from Montana, became the publishers, Colvill remaining as editor. On February 4th, 1860, Colvill sold his interest to W. W. Phelps, who had been the member of Congress from the Red Wing district, because, as he said in his retiring editorial, he foresaw a Democratic storm coming in the Charleston convention. In the next issue of the Sentinel, Phelps appeared as editor. On August 15th, 1860, Littlefield dropped out, and Maginnis went on alone as publisher, Phelps remaining as editor.

At a meeting noted for its patriotism, held April 23rd, 1861, in Red Wing, a company called the Goodhue Volunteers was organized, and William Colvill was unanimously elected captain, and Martin Maginnis first sergeant. The next day the Sentinel, at Vol. 5, No. 39, April 24th, 1861, was discontinued. Its material was sold to James Parker, and made the basis of the Goodhue Volunteer, a patriotic paper which did excellent service 325 for the Union, until it, in turn, died near the close of the war. I find in the issue of the Volunteer of May 6th, 1863, that the exact date when the material of the Sentinel was purchased by the Volunteer was May 3rd, 1861.

### **WILLIAM W. PHELPS.**

W. W. Phelps was born in Oakland, Michigan, in 1822; was graduated at the University of Michigan, and studied law; and was admitted to the bar in 1854. While a member of the Michigan legislature, he was appointed register of the United States Land Office at Red Wing, which was opened February 1st, 1855. He was elected to Congress when Minnesota became a state, and served twice as mayor of Red Wing. He was a Democrat of the old school, and did much to give an elevated tone to early journalism. He was also

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very useful in placing Red Wing on the solid foundations she now enjoys. He died August 3rd, 1873.

### **THE ROCHESTER DEMOCRAT**

was the fifty-eighth newspaper established in the Territory. The St. Paul Advertiser of August 29th, 1857, says, "The Rochester Democrat and Olmsted County Journal are the only papers running in Rochester, Olmsted county." Volume 1, No. 33, of March 18th, 1858, being the first number of the Democrat that I can find, I am compelled to count back, for Volume 1, No. 1. In that way, I make the beginning August 6th, 1857. The last issue in the Historical Library bears the date of October 21st, 1858. In that number Charles W. Cotton, the owner and editor, says that he is going to Winona, where on Wednesday, November 17th, 1858, he will begin the Winona Democrat. As he took his press and material with him, the Rochester Democrat died. It was a four-page, seven-column Democratic sheet.

### **THE CANNON FALLS BULLETIN**

was the fifty-ninth newspaper. I can find but few traces of it. The St. Paul Advertiser of August 29th, 1857, says it has received 326 the first two numbers. It must, therefore, have been started early in August of that year. The Advertiser quotes it on December 5th of the same year, which is the last heard of it in the newspapers. No copies of it are to be found. The Bulletin was started in Cannon Falls, Goodhue county, by R. A. Hoag and Brother, with the plant of the Cannon Falls Gazette. At the close of 1857, seeing better prospects in Northfield, Rice county, they moved the press and material to that place, and started the Northfield Journal. In August, 1862, R. A. Hoag enlisted in the army, and three years later he came out a captain. In 1870 he removed to his farm near Northfield.

### **THE HASTINGS INDEPENDENT**

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was the sixtieth newspaper. The first that I find of it in the Historical Library is No. 26 of Volume 2, January 29th, 1859. Again I have to count back to get Volume 1, No. 1. Assuming no suspensions, I find the date August 6th, 1857, which must be very nearly correct. It was a four-page, seven-column, Republican, paper; and Columbus Stebbins was its owner, editor, and publisher. It was the second weekly newspaper established in Dakota county. Stebbins ran it until its union with the Minnesota Conserver, November 24th, 1866. The Independent and Conserver then died, the union of the two papers producing the Gazette under the firm name of Todd and Stebbins.

### **COLUMBUS STEBBINS**

was a native of Indiana. Though of only a common school education, he possessed such natural talent that he uplifted and bettered journalism whenever he used his pen. He was the friend and exponent of all that would best advance the interests of Minnesota. A close attendant to his editorial duties, he made a bright county and local newspaper. He laid the foundation of the Hastings Independent broad and strong, and it lasted well. He died December 21st, 1878.

The sixty-first Minnesota newspaper, the latest established prior to the bursting of the mid-fifty boom in August, 1857, was

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### **THE GLENCOE REGISTER, NO. 1.**

Number 2 of its first volume is in the Historical Library, and is dated August 15th, 1857. It began, therefore on August 8th, 1857; and it was founded by Hon. L. L. Baxter. It was a four-page, six-column, Republican paper at the beginning. William R. Baxter, who was killed at Guntown, Mississippi, during the Rebellion, was editor, and Horace Baxter publisher. The last week of November, 1857, Colonel John H. Stevens and William S. Chapman bought the Register, and it became Democratic. The name of H. O. Hammond

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appeared as the first publisher under Stevens and Chapman, Colonel Stevens being the editor. May 1st, 1858, Hammond retired, and on May 15th Marshall Robinson became publisher.

In September, 1862, Robinson enlisted to help quell the Indian outbreak, and, as a measure of safety, the Register suspended publication until January, 1863, when it was printed a short time by Frank Daggett. Colonel Stevens still remained editor, however, until August, 1863, when he sold the paper to G. K. Gilbert and A. J. Snyder. They ran it about six months, when it suspended. In November, 1864, Gilbert sold his interest to Snyder. In May, 1866, Snyder leased the paper to C. A. Bennett, who published it as the Glencoe Weekly Register until February 27th, 1868. At that time he sold it to Frank Belfoy, who ran it until April 2nd, 1868, when he tried to turn it into the McLeod County Register; but at Volume 1, No. 13, of the new issue, it ran into the ground, or, as Colonel Stevens tersely phrased it. "It dried up." Belfoy afterward started the first paper ever printed in Mocker county.

February 25th, 1869, James C. Edson started the Glencoe Register, No. 2, as volume one, number one. In that issue he gave a detailed history of Glencoe Register. No. 1, of which the above account is an abstract. This number is on file in the vaults of the Historical Society.

The Register, No. 2, was continued by Edson to Volume 4, No. 12, May 16th, 1872, when he sold the plant to Liberty Hall, who conducted it to Volume 7, No. 36, November 4th, 1875. The next issue thereafter was enlarged to eight columns, and then the volume was jumped from 7 to 19, with the probable intention 328 of covering the lifetime of Register No. 1. That paper, however, ran only from August 8th, 1857, to Volume 9, No. 37, making eight years and thirty-seven weeks of continuous existence, in about ten years and eight months of time, including its Indian War and other temporary suspensions meantime. Register No. 2 is still running.



**COLONEL JOHN H. STEVENS.**

Colonel John H. Stevens was born in Canada, June 13th, 1820; was educated in the common schools; enlisted in the United States Army during the Mexican War; served through it, and came to Minnesota in 1849; and was the first settler on the west side of the river in what is now Minneapolis. The house he built stood on part of the ground now occupied by the Union railway depot. It stands at present in Minnehaha park, belonging to the city, having been drawn there by thousands of the school children of Minneapolis, working by relays, in the spring of 1896. The excitement of the day was too much for Colonel Stevens, and he suffered a stroke of paralysis in consequence, from which he never recovered. He died May 28th, 1900.

Colonel Stevens was a born farmer. He loved the vocation as he did his life. Many a time, while editor of the Express over on the St. Anthony side of the river, I have gone to him for local items. He never failed to respond with from one to two columns; and the best stock and biggest squash, pumpkins, and watermelons of the farms around Minneapolis; were prolific subjects of his graphic sketches. Besides the Glencoe Register, he conducted the Minneapolis Chronicle, Farmer and Gardener, Farmers' Tribune, and the Farm, Stock, and Home. As president of the Minnesota State Agricultural Society, he did much to introduce superior methods of farming and stock-raising.

He was the first register of deeds of Hennepin county, and served several terms in both branches of the Legislature of Minnesota. His book of "Personal Recollections" is full of valuable chronicles of early days, and will become more and more useful as the years go by. During the Indian uprising of 1862 he served as brigadier general of the militia sent to the front to subdue the savages. Through his position as the first claimholder 329 where the largest part of Minneapolis now stands, Colonel Stevens had the chance of his life to die a millionaire. His unselfish efforts to foster and upbuild Minneapolis, however,

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prevented this. He died in comfortable circumstances, however, the same genial, free-handed, noble-hearted man that he had lived through his long life of nearly eighty years.

### **SUMMARY TO AUGUST 25TH, 1857.**

Of the nineteen newspapers established in Minnesota between January 1st and August 25th, 1857, only one, the Mantorville Express, survives. Indeed, few of these papers survived the boom that brought them into existence.

The ballooning of the journalism of those days was very aptly burlesqued by John P. Owens, in the Daily Minnesotian of May 18th, 1857. I believe that I cannot close this part of my paper more appropriately than by quoting a portion of the article. The supposed newspaper of which he wrote was named: "The Exponent of Morality, Truth, and Justice." The paper had become so popular in the new city of Olean that its publishers were compelled to issue an extra prospectus. They said:

We come before the tremendous and hourly increasing number of our readers this morning, in an enlarged form. Our advertising friends have actually compelled us to make room for them, two of our clerks having been crushed to death in the crowd of patrons who thronged the counting-room with advertisements. We have added forty-five columns to our paper. Our city circulation is immense. We employ two hundred compositors and fifty pressmen. Three editors are constantly at work, and we are in hopes, as soon as we can procure workmen, to be able to issue a semidaily the size of a bed blanket.

N. B.—Thirty carriers wanted immediately.

P. S.—Wanted, a partner with a little money.

P. P. S.—Wanted, Fifty compositors. Lots in Olean given for work! ! ! Great inducements to printers! ! !

### **Fifth Paper, August 25th, 1857, to May 11th, 1858.**

The old time editor was a thorough pioneer. He helped lay the foundations of Minnesota deep and strong, and was as honorable in his calling as the early merchant, doctor, lawyer, or business man. Politically, he was a partisan, and a firm and, honest 330 believer in the adage, "To the victor belong the spoils." To keep body and soul in touch, he needed the infrequent doles of mail-letting advertisements and the Territorial and County printing of those times, to supplement his attenuated returns from subscriptions, advertising, and job work; and when his party was in power he carefully corralled such helps.

Where a party fight was on, he was ready and usually pretty rough; where a public or party service was needed, he was expected to be the pack-horse to carry supplies. In the community at large, he was the genial, good-natured squash advertiser, for which he usually got the squash. The situation was rather broadly described by an early editor who printed this notice: "Our family being now settled in housekeeping, we will take for subscriptions anything we can wear or that hogs can eat."

A man of infinite resources was the old time editor. He was a rare combination of editorial writer, type-setter, and printer's devil. As a rule, he had the spirit and grit of an early editor of the Freeborn County Standard. When some miscreant whom he had scored tried to even up by stealing the lever of his hand press, he set up a scalding note explanatory of the delay in getting out his paper, unlocked the editorial form, put it in, and then worked off the edition with a fence rail.

But amid all his hustling wear and tear, no editor of any class, time, or kind, preserved a larger measure of integrity. I could name some of those sturdy pioneer editors who threw up their jobs rather than support men or measures dictated by boodling newspaper owners.

Do not understand by this tribute to his common honesty that I praise the early editor as a saint. He often said and did things that would neither sound nor look well inside a church; but it was never said of him, as has been too often said of the modern editor, that it was his vocation to "raise hell and sell newspapers." Nor did he pander to the animal instincts of human nature by watching the dirty debris of society to see where the devil would break out next, and have a reporter on hand to tell about it.

Giving the modern newspaper full credit for the mighty power it wields for good in the affairs of men, the scandals it too often prints spread moral disease among the young, with tremendous 331 counteracting effect. It is human nature to want to see into hell as far as possible, but there is a place in the way where the bars should be put up before our boys and girls and, not removed until they come to years of discretion.

### **THE FINANCIAL CRASH OF 1857.**

August 25th, 1857, the Ohio Life and Trust Company of New York, with a branch in Cincinnati, failed. It had liabilities of nearly seven million dollars. With it went down a large number of banks. These failures started the financial crash of 1857.

Undeterred by this disaster, Lucius F. Hubbard, afterward a general in the Union army, and governor of Minnesota, started a newspaper in Red Wing. He named it

### **THE RED WING REPUBLICAN.**

Its first issue was dated September 4th, 1857, and, it was the sixty-second weekly begun in Minnesota Territory. That its foundations, even in those insecure times, were built deep and strong, is shown by the fact that it is one of the few Minnesota newspapers which survived the trying crisis of 1857 and is yet in good working order. It started as a four-page, seven column sheet; and it then was, and still is, Republican in politics.

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November 20th, 1857, F. D. Meredith, who died some years ago, became associated with Hubbard, and the firm name was Hubbard and Meredith until October 1st, 1858. Then Meredith retired, and Mr. Hubbard went on alone until August 12th, 1859, when Charles L. Davis joined Hubbard, and the managers became Hubbard and Davis, the former being the main editor. At that time, the name was changed to the Goodhue County Republican.

December 19th, 1861, Mr. Hubbard enlisted in the Fifth Minnesota Regiment, and the firm of Hubbard and Davis was dissolved. Mr. Meredith then returned, and the name of the firm again became Hubbard and Meredith, the former being the proprietor, and the latter the editor and manager during the absence of Mr. Hubbard. March 28th, 1862, the ownership and editorial management went to C. L. Davis, and Meredith once more retired. 332 Then Davis enlisted in the Tenth Minnesota Infantry, and September 19th, 1862, placed E. A. Littlefield in charge, who became the editor. At that date the paper was cut to six columns, on account of the hard times.

May 27th, 1864, Littlefield turned over the paper to Colonel William Colvill, satisfied, as he said, that there was "more honor than profit in running a country newspaper." Colvill printed a salutatory tersely characteristic of the hero of Gettysburg. It ran as follows: "With this issue I take charge of the Republican. Correspondence should be addressed accordingly."

August 26th, 1864, the paper went back to the seven-column issue, Davis still retaining his interest. March 30th, 1866, H. K. Parker became editor and part proprietor. August 9th, 1867, William R. Snider bought half of the paper, and August 9th, 1868, he bought the remaining half. June 10th, 1869, T. H. Perkins, of the Lake City Leader, bought a half interest of Snider, and September 30th, 1869, Snider sold the other half to S. P. Jennison, the firm becoming Jennison and Perkins. December 26th, 1878, Perkins retired, and Mr. Jennison became sole proprietor. He continued alone until July 29th, 1880, when there

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was a combination of the Goodhue County Republican with B. B. Herbert's Advance. The Advance was printed Wednesdays, and the Republican Saturdays.

November 29th, 1884, the Republican, the Advance, and the Sun, united under the name of the Red Wing Printing Company. They published the papers Wednesdays and Saturdays, as before, with Herbert and Tams Bixby as editors.

October 12th, 1885, the first number of the Red Wing Daily Republican was issued. January 1st, 1886, Bixby retired, and Herbert and Jennison became editors and proprietors. In November, 1889, Herbert sold his interest to Jennison; and in March, 1894, Bixby bought Jennison's interest, and has continued the management to the present time.

### **LUCIUS F. HUBBARD.**

Lucius F. Hubbard was born in Troy, New York, January 26th, 1836. He came to Red Wing in 1857, and started the Red Wing Republican on September 4th of that year, as before stated. December 19th, 1861, he enlisted in the Union army as a private 333 in Company A, Fifth Infantry. He was made captain, February 5th, 1862; lieutenant colonel, March 24th, 1862; colonel, August 31st, 1862; and brigadier general, December 16th, 1864, for gallant services in the battle of Nashville. He was in more than twenty battles of the war, was slightly wounded two or three times, and was mustered out at Mobile in September, 1865. He was register of deeds for Goodhue county from 1858 to 1860, state senator from 1871 to 1875, and governor of Minnesota from January 10th, 1882, to January 5th, 1887. A sterling man in every sense is Governor Hubbard. He is now a resident and business man of St. Paul.

### **THE WABASHA COUNTY HERALD**

was the sixty-third newspaper established within a little more than eight years after the organization of Minnesota as a Territory. The Waumadee Herald had come to an untimely end at Read's Landing, by the drowning of its founders, the McMasters brothers, in May,

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1857, as previously stated. With the aid of some of the business men of Read's Landing, Norman E. Stevens, a young printer from Illinois, had purchased the press and material of the father of the McMasters brothers, and June 27th, 1857, he began the issue of the Waumadee Herald anew.

That the renewal was called the Waumadee Herald is proved by the fact that the August 13th, 1857, issue of the St. Paul Advertiser quotes it. That it was not called the Wabasha Herald at that time, is shown by the additional fact that the first issue of the paper with Wabasha in the name, and the first issue in fact that I can find anywhere, being No. 22 of Volume 2 in the Historical Library, dated January 29th, 1859, would carry No. 1 of Volume 1 no farther back than September 5th, 1857. No. 22 of Volume 2, was a seven-column, Republican sheet, and was named the Wabasha County Read's Landing Herald. I have therefore fixed September 5th, 1857, instead of June 27th, 1857, as the beginning of the Wabasha County Herald.

Wabasha and Read's Landing are towns quite near each other, and at the time the Herald was started they were rivals. To satisfy both towns, it seems that Stevens printed "The Wabasha County Herald" across the head of the paper, while above the cut in the middle of the heading he inserted, in smaller letters, 334 "Read's Landing." These words came also just before the date, and also at the head of the editorial columns. Evidently, it was intended to be a paper for both towns, with Read's Landing its place of publication. Such details are rather dry, but they seem necessary in giving the send-off to some of these early newspapers.

July 23rd, 1859, C. W. Wheaton became associated with Stevens as editor. He lasted until March 1st, 1860, when he retired. On August 11th following, the small lettered "Read's Larding," above the cut on the title-page, disappeared; but the name was still retained elsewhere in the paper. Evidently this lapse was discovered by some jealous resident of Read's, for on December 15th there was a general acrobatic mix of Read's and Wabasha in the title-page heading, which continued to Volume 4, No. 15, January 5th, 1861. The

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History of Wabasha says that about this time the paper was moved to Wabasha, to take the place of the Journal, which had gone to Lake City.

The file of the weekly edition ends in the Historical Library at January 12th, 1861; and on the 30th a semi-weekly edition takes its place, beginning with Volume 1, No. 1, and running four pages of five columns each. March 13th, 1861, the paper was enlarged to six columns, and it so remained with "Wabasha County Herald" at the head, and "Wabasha and Read's Landing" the places of publication, and N. E. Stevens editor and publisher. This arrangement continued to No. 42 of Volume 2, July 19th, 1862. Stevens then disposed of his subscription list to U. B. Shaver, publisher of the Pepin Wisconsin Press; but he retained his press and material, and with it started an unsuccessful newspaper venture at Plainview, Wabasha county. He also remained associate editor with Shaver, in conducting the Herald, the firm name being Shaver and Stevens, editors, and U. B. Shaver, publisher.

At No. 47 of Volume 2, August 6th, 1862, the semi-weekly experiment of the Herald ended; but the numbering of the semiweekly continued, the paper remaining the six columns in size of the former semi-weekly. October 8th to December 11th, 1862, the papers mix in the files. At the latter date the firm of publishers became Shaver and Stevens; and the editorial arrangement, Stevens and Shaver. This continued until the issue of 335 July 9th, 1863, when the numbers seemed to change from the semi-weekly to the weekly. The weekly was then enlarged to seven columns, and became a full-fledged Wabasha newspaper.

In explanation of the transfer of interest and arrangement of firm name, the Herald account of it is that U. B. Shaver assumed control of the paper early in July, 1862, and in the next October resold half his interest to Stevens. This business relation and the publishing and editorial arrangement above noted seem to have continued to September 17th, 1863, when there is another interruption in the files until May 12th, 1864. Mr. Shaver was then announced as sole editor and proprietor, Stevens having sold out and gone to Paxton,



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Illinois. July 28th, 1864, Shaver sold an interest in the plant to R. H. Copeland, of the Alma (Wisconsin) Journal. Early in 1865 Copeland dropped out of the paper and enlisted in the Union army, and Shaver went on alone until August 2nd, 1865, when E. W. Gurley and Frank E. Daggett bought the paper and Shaver retired.

March 8th, 1866, Gurley dropped out, and Daggett went on alone. May 3rd, 1866, Henry W. Rose bought in with Daggett and the firm became Daggett and Rose. August 16th, 1866, the paper was enlarged to eight columns, and May 2nd, 1867, to nine. November 7th, 1867, the name of Daggett dropped out; and December 5th Rose became sole editor and proprietor. April 2nd, 1868, Rose died, and from that time until May 14th J. K. Arnold was editor. Daggett then returned and his name appeared in the issue of May 14th, 1868, Frank (642) Daggett.

“642” was humorous in meaning and referred to the extreme weight of Daggett, who was about five feet six, and weighed two hundred and fifty pounds. He was joked so much about “642”, however, that he dropped it and became the plain Frank Daggett his friends loved so well. October 13th, 1870, Daggett sold to Sharpe and Palmer, and about that time the paper went Back to an eight-column issue. The valedictory of Daggett is so characteristic of the man that I quote the following paragraph of its conclusion:

To all the good friends who have aided me by cheering words and generous patronage, I say, Command me in all things an honorable man can do for his friends. To that other crowd who love me not, but on the contrary have feelings of an otherwise character, I have that good-natured 336 contempt which one can afford to have for men he neither respects nor fears. I wish those who think they owe me a cowhiding to distinctly understand that I freely forgive the debt and hereby receipt the same in full.

Daggett went to Litchfield, Meeker county, and in company with W. D. Joubert, started the Litchfield Ledger. He died October 14th, 1876. He was one of the best paragraphists the press of Minnesota ever had.

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September 5th, 1872, Amasa T. Sharpe, of the firm of Sharpe and Palmer, sold his interest to W. S. Walton, and the firm became Walton and Palmer. December 19th, 1872, Palmer sold his interest to Walton. June 12th, 1873, Walton associated W. H. Huntington with him, and he remained until October 23rd, 1873. June 10th, 1875, Walton changed the paper to a six-column, eight-page issue, and associated with him his brother, H. H. Walton; and June 17th, 1875, the management became "The Herald Company," and ran that way until May 7th, 1879, when W. H. H. Matteson and W. L. Lewark became editors and proprietors. Somewhere between October 3rd, 1877, and September 18th, 1878, the Herald changed from the six-column, eight-page issue, back to its nine-column, four-page shape. The exact date of this change I cannot get, as there is a break in the files in 1877 and 1878.

March 30th, 1881, Matteson and Lewark sold to O. F. Collier; and February 1st, 1893, Collier sold to J. F. McGovern and Company, who are still running the paper.

### **THE FALLS EVENING NEWS**

was the sixth daily newspaper started in the Territory. W. A. Croffut and Edwin Clark were the proprietors. Mr. Clark was the moving spirit in this transaction. Born in Bridgewater, N. H., February 25th, 1834, in a line of prominent and influential families of New England, he brought to the west the energetic spirit needed to develop and drive the business part of early journalism to its best success.

The first thing Mr. Clark did was to form a strong combination of Republican business men of St. Anthony. Through their aid, he purchased for the firm of Croffut and Clark, the Minnesota Republican, a weekly newspaper that was being edited 337 and published by Rev. C. G. Ames. He also provided for the daily above named. The history of the Republican was given in Part I of this paper. The purchase was made September 3rd, 1857; and the Falls Evening News, the daily connected therewith, was issued on the 26th of that month. It was a four-page, six-column paper, of which Mr. Croffut was editor, and

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Mr. Clark the publisher and business manager. January 7th, 1859, the name Republican of the weekly was changed to Minnesota State News.

November 5th, 1859, Croffut disposed of his interest to Uriah Thomas, a talented young attorney and former member of the firm of Hancock and Thomas of Minneapolis. Hancock was a brother of General Winfield S. Hancock, of Civil War fame. The News firm then became Thomas and Clark.

April 16th, 1861, the News suspended its daily publication; and in 1863 the weekly establishment was sold by Thomas and Clark to William S. King, being merged into the State Atlas.

The Minnesota Republican, of which the Minnesota State News was the successor, enjoyed the distinction of being the first Republican paper established in the Territory of Minnesota.

In 1865 Mr. Clark was appointed United States Indian agent for the Chippewas, by President Lincoln, and the following year was reappointed. He afterward built a flour mill at Melrose, Minn., and also carried on a large mercantile business. In 1894 he returned to Minneapolis, and is now a prominent mover in the affairs of the Territorial Pioneers Association. He is a stirring, energetic man, and nothing drags while he has anything to do with it.

### **WILLIAM A. CROFFUT.**

W. A. Croffut was born in Redding, Fairfield County, Conn., in 1836. His schooling was academic, but not collegiate. He began to write for the newspapers at the age of sixteen, and in 1854 was penning editorials for the Waterbury Democrat. In 1855 he was made editor of the Valley Messenger at Derby, Conn.

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The Derby Journal had been owned and edited by Thomas M. Newson, who established the St. Paul Times in 1854. Newson 22 338 offered Croffut early in 1856 the position of reporter for the Times at eight dollars a week. Croffut accepted and soon after became city editor; and, during the absence of Newson, east after a wife, he was made editor in chief.

In September, 1857, Mr. Croffut and Edwin Clark purchased the Minnesota Republican and started the Falls Evening News, the first daily established outside of St. Paul in the Territory of Minnesota.

After disposing of his interest in the News to Uriah Thomas in 1859, as before stated, Mr. Croffut returned to Connecticut and became editor of the Danbury Jeffersonian, a weekly Republican paper, which the next year was merged into the Danbury News. In 1860 he returned to Minnesota and edited the State Atlas, while its owner, Colonel W. S. King, was in Washington.

In 1861 Croffut enlisted as a three months man in the First Minnesota Regiment at Fort Snelling, was mustered out, followed the regiment as correspondent of the New York Tribune, and went through the Battle of Bull Run with it.

During the next two years Mr. Croffut was Tribune correspondent in the Army of the Potomac. In 1864 he edited the Rochester Democrat, and in 1866 he bought a half interest in the Palladium, of New Haven, Conn., and became its editor. Two years afterward, he sold his interest in that paper and wrote a Rebellion History of Connecticut, which had a large sale. He next became associated with Lyman C. Draper, secretary of the Wisconsin Historical Society at Madison. Wis., in the publication of a book entitled "A Helping Hand for American Homes." In 1870, he became managing editor of the Evening Post of Chicago, and in 1871 was induced by Colonel King to return to Minneapolis and edit the Minneapolis Tribune.

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He remained in Minneapolis nearly three years: but, upon receiving an advantageous offer from the New York Daily Graphic, he joined its staff in New York, where he wrote editorials nearly five years. He then joined the staff of the Daily Tribune under Whitelaw Reid, and in the meantime carried on a weekly correspondence with newspapers in about fifteen different states, illustrating the letters as they were printed. In 1886 he went to Washington and became editor of the Daily Post. In 1888 he became executive officer of the United States Geological Survey, but still continued his general correspondence with the newspapers. In the fall of 1894 Mr. Croffut retired to private life, and has since resided in Washington.

No one can truthfully say that Mr. Croffut's long, busy journalistic career has been unversatile. Wherever he went, he carried a chip on his shoulder, and had as much fun with his pen as an old time Irishman with his shillalah. His spicy Tribune war articles, and his correspondence with his twelve or fifteen newspapers at a later period, attracted much attention and were widely read.

### **CHATFIELD DEMOCRAT, NO. 2.**

Hon. H. R. Wells, of Preston, Fillmore county, writes me, in answer to an inquiry about the beginnings of Democrat No. 2, that he has the files complete. Volume 1, No. 1, he tells me, is dated September 11th, 1857. The history of Chatfield Democrat, No. 1, I gave as far as possible among the newspapers of 1856. Chatfield Democrat, No. 2. was therefore the sixty-fourth newspaper venture launched in the Territory of Minnesota.

This paper, No. 2, was started by C. C. Hemphill. No. 14, Volume 2, December 18th, 1858, is the first issue I have been able to find in the Historical Library. Hemphill continued it to Volume 3, No. 13, December 10th, 1859, when he sold the plant to Gen. Judson W. Bishop, who is now residing in St. Paul. At Volume 4, No. 3, January 21st, 1860, the paper was enlarged to seven columns. May 11th, 1861, General Bishop sold to J. S. McKenny and Company, and went into the army. General Bishop informs me that he purchased the

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Democrat for \$300, and sold it for \$1,500, a pretty good speculation for seventeen months holding, while the echoes of the financial crash of 1857 were resounding through the west.

April 17th, 1869, J. S. McKenny having died, J. H. McKenny and Son purchased the paper. Another son soon afterward joined the firm, and the owners were J. H. McKenny and Sons, until the death of J. H. McKenny, May 23rd, 1878. October 28th, 1882, H. B. McKenny left his brother and purchased a half interest in the Lake City Sentinel. January 6th, 1883, the Democrat was enlarged to eight columns, and on October 13th S. S. McKenny sold the paper to R. McNeill. On June 15th, 1889, McNeill sold to Frank T. Drebert of the Owatonna Journal. November 27th, 1894, the paper was changed to a semi-weekly issue; and May 22nd, 1902, it was combined with the Chatfield News and became the News Democrat. It is now running under that name. Harnish and Stoudt being owners and editors.

### **THE TRAVERSE DES SIOUX REPORTER**

was a seven-column Democratic sheet, and the sixty-fifth newspaper in the Territory. It was launched at Traverse des Sioux, a trading post on the Minnesota river, a short distance north from St. Peter. The date of its first issue was September 27th, 1857.

It seems that a month or so previous to the above date, Milton M. Pearce brought to Traverse des Sioux a \$2,500 newspaper and job outfit, from Cleveland, Ohio. He made a contract with the townsite company to issue a weekly newspaper one year, for sundry town lots and a cash bonus of one thousand dollars. It seems that shortly afterward the company became dissatisfied with Pearce, and James J. Green, now editor of the New Ulm News, was induced to buy the office and assume the control.

The financial crash of 1857 was too much for Green. He had to abandon the Traverse des Sioux enterprise with considerable loss. The St. Paul Advertiser quotes it in its issue of

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January 16th, 1858, and that is the last I can find of it. The townsite company broke up about that time, and the newspaper project failed.

### **JAMES J. GREEN.**

James J. Green was born January 29th, 1830, in Lancaster county, Pa., and came to Minnesota Territory early in 1856. He was elected the first clerk of the district court of Nicollet county, at the first state election in 1857, and about the same time he bought the Traverse des Sioux Reporter. This failing, as stated, he started the Minnesota Statesman in St. Peter, June 11th, 1858. During the war, he was quartermaster sergeant of the First Minnesota Rangers, commanded by Colonel McPhail, and crossed the 341 plains in 1863, in General Sibley's Indian expedition. He is now editor of the New Ulm News, and is a valued citizen of Brown county, Minnesota.

### **THE BANCROFT PIONEER.**

Again I have to rely upon the St. Paul Advertiser as the anchor to hold a territorial newspaper from drifting without chart or compass upon an unknown sea. The Advertiser of October 24th, 1857, says, "The first number of the Bancroft Pioneer, published at Bancroft, Freeborn county, has just arrived." It was started, therefore, about the middle of October, 1857. David Blakeley was the editor of the Pioneer. He refers to his connection with it in an address before the early settlers of Freeborn County. The address is found in the History of Freeborn County, in the Library of the Historical Society. The concluding part is as follows:

I stuck to the town of Bancroft as long as a single subscriber remained upon its site, of the three which it originally contained. But when the store was closed, and Comfort departed, and Agent Oliver struck his colors, and I had watched the schooner which bore him and his away from the town, until it disappeared among the oak openings in the distance, I felt

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"Like one who treads alone Some banquet hall deserted. Whose garlands dead, whose lights are fled, And all but me departed."

The Pioneer was published in the interest of a land company that owned the town of Bancroft. It ran nearly a year, and when the townsite enterprise failed, the paper died. It was the sixty-sixth newspaper started in the Territory.

### **DAVID BLAKELEY.**

David Blakeley was born in Binghamton, N. Y., in 1831. He came to Minnesota in 1857, and his first editorial venture was with the Bancroft Pioneer. After leaving Bancroft, he started the Mower County Mirror, September 30th, 1858, at Austin; and November 5th, 1859, in company with Cyrenus Blakeley, he started, the Rochester City Post at Rochester, Olmsted county, which they conducted about six years. He was elected and served as secretary of state from November, 1862, to January, 1866. He afterward became owner and editor of the Chicago Post. He next, in 1874, became owner of the Pioneer Press of St. Paul, and in 1875 combined it with the St. Paul Press. In 1876 the Pioneer Press bought the Minneapolis Tribune and Mail and united them under the name of the Pioneer Press and Tribune. In 1877 Blakeley sold out, and bought the Mail part of the aggregation, the Pioneer Press agreeing to drop the Tribune. Blakeley then turned the Mail into the Minneapolis Evening Tribune, and it afterward became the Minneapolis Tribune, as now published.

Finally, Mr. Blakeley left journalism and became owner and manager of the famous Gilmore Band, and afterward managed the Marine Band, of which Sousa was the leader. In the latter business connection he met his death by apoplexy, November 7th, 1896.

### **THE BELLE PLAINE INQUIRER,**

of Belle Plaine, Scott county, was the sixty-seventh Minnesota newspaper. No. 16 of Volume 1, dated March 18th, 1858, is the first issue in the Historical Library, and is the



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first trace of the paper that I can find anywhere. Counting back, No. 1 would be December 3rd, 1857. As the St. Paul Advertiser of December 5th, 1857, quotes the first number, December 3rd is probably the correct date of the first issue.

David A. Wright was editor and publisher of the Inquirer. Wright helped Judge Atwater run the St. Anthony Express while I was up on the Red river in my wild-goose-town-lot-chase during the first six months of 1857. The Inquirer was a four-page, seven-column, Democratic paper. In the latter part of 1858 J. W. Bennett became associated with Wright as editor and publisher. March 17th, 1859, Wright dropped out of the combination, and Bennett went on alone until July 21st, 1859, when Bennett in turn disappeared and George W. Marsh took his place. The issue of November 17th, 1859, appeared with the name of Marsh as editor printed upside down, which was probably intended to be a humorous reference to the close of his administration. At any rate the next issue contained the names of Horace 343 G. Baxter and Maurice C. Russell, Baxter being the editor, and Baxter and Russell the publishers.

In the early part of July, 1860, J. L. Macdonald, later judge of the district court, and member of Congress from the Minnesota valley, and his brother, P. S. Macdonald, took charge of the paper, the former acting as editor. In answer to an inquiry from me, Judge Macdonald says he dissolved his connection with the paper in the latter part of 1861. As the last number of the Inquirer in the Historical Library is dated October 12th, 1861, and as Judge Macdonald's name was still at the head of the editorial columns, the paper must have died about the time he left it. I have therefore fixed that date as the finish of the Inquirer. The Judge then purchased the press and material of the St. Anthony Express, my old paper, and with it started the Shakopee Argus, which is still running.

### **FOLKETS RÖST (PEOPLE'S VOICE).**

Folkets Röst is the name of a Democratic Norwegian newspaper published in St. Paul in Territorial times. It was started, I think, near the close of 1857. Earle S. Goodrich, who was

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editor and proprietor of the Pioneer and Democrat during those early years, informs me that he printed the paper; but he cannot recall any of the details, except that he believes his connection with it left him on the wrong side of the ledger. Although it probably was started earlier than December, 1857, I place it sixty-eighth on the list; and I believe it has the honor of being the first Scandinavian newspaper printed in the Northwest.

In the files of the Pioneer and Democrat of September 28th, 1858, I find the following: "The next number of the Folkets Röst, the Norwegian Democratic paper, will be issued this week. A large extra edition will be printed." This is the only printed record that I can find of this newspaper.

### **THE NEW ULM PIONEER**

was the sixty-ninth paper established in the Territory. The place was New Ulm, Brown county. It was a four-page, five-column sheet, Republican in politics. The first number of this paper in the Historical Library files is No. 46 of Volume 2, January 344 17th, 1860. It being difficult to get a definite beginning for the Pioneer, from such data, I wrote Hon. William Pfaender, of New Ulm, and he kindly helped me out. He was manager of the German Land Association that took charge of the New Ulm settlement in 1856; and arranged for the publication of a newspaper. A committee, consisting of A. H. Wagner, H. K. Kattmann, C. Kochne and William Pfaender, was appointed by the Association. They established the New Ulm Pioneer on the first of January, 1858, and turned it over to Nucgele and Gerstenhauer as publishers, and H. Kompe as editor. The first issue of the paper was dated January 7th, 1858.

In September, 1861, both publishers enlisted in the Union army, but G. W. O. Barth continued the paper, its last issue appearing on August 16th, 1862, three days before the seige of New Ulm was begun by the Indians. In that siege, the office and contents of the Pioneer were destroyed by fire, and the editor was wounded. According to Mr. Pfaender, he escaped to a strawstack and died there when that in turn was burned.

The Mankato Record made this further brief reference to the death of the Pioneer editor. It said: "Otto Barth, editor of the New Ulm Pioneer, died on Tuesday, August 26th, from the effects of burns. He was in a stable that was fired by the Indians."

### THE ST. CLOUD VISITOR

was the seventieth newspaper issued in Minnesota. As far as known, no copies of the Visitor are in existence. The History of Stearns County fixes its beginning on December 10th, 1857; but as number nine of the issue was disastrously begun March 27th, 1858, the first issue must have been made some time in the latter part of January, 1858. I have therefore placed its date at January 23rd, 1858, which will allow a lapse of one week, such as most of the early papers needed in getting started.

Jane G. Swisshelm was editress of the Visitor, and James Mowatt its publisher. Mrs. Swisshelm was an unrelenting, untactful champion of woman's rights and antislavery, and she wielded the tomahawk and scalping knife editorially with savage ferocity.

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General Sam Lowrie, a southern man, and a pronounced proslavery Democrat, was, at the time, the "big man" of the upper Mississippi valley. Lowrie waited upon Mrs. Swisshelm soon after her arrival, and, with all the suavity of a southern gentleman, tendered his earnest support of the Visitor, provided she would support the Buchanan administration. Mrs. Swisshelm had been posted about Lowrie and was ready for him. She responded in a ladylike way that she would willingly support the administration of President Buchanan, if she could be allowed to do it in her way. This satisfied Gen. Lowrie, and they parted with mutual expressions of esteem.

The Visitor came out soon after, with the Buchanan support given in such a satirical, ironical way, that Lowrie and the other Democrats of St. Cloud were maddened and disgusted. They protested, of course. Mrs. Swisshelm replied that she had pledged her

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word, and that she intended “to support the Buchanan administration until it was sunk into everlasting infamy.”

That stirred things from the bottom. J. C. Shepley, an attorney and prominent Democrat of St. Cloud, delivered a lecture soon after, in which he severely denounced woman's rights women. It also contained a number of very offensive allusions that Mrs. Swisshelm considered personal. She replied with allusions quite as personal, and directed largely, as Shepley claimed, at his wife. A midnight raid upon the office of the Visitor followed. On the 28th of March, 1858, after the Outside of No. 9 of the Visitor had been worked off, the press was taken apart, broken, and a considerable portion of it, with the type, thrown into the river. A note reading as follows was left in the office: “If you ever again attempt to publish a paper in St. Cloud, you yourself will be as summarily dealt with as your office has been.” This note was signed “Vigilante.”

The friends of Mrs. Swisshelm were in turn enraged. A public meeting was called, Mrs. Swisshelm dictated her will to Judge McKelvy, and made Miles Brown, a dead shot with a revolver, agree to stand near her, and if she fell into the hands of the mob to shoot her through the head. She then went to the meeting at the Stearns House, and, with Brown standing near, named General Lowrie and two other men as the ones who destroyed the Visitor office. Armed men stood at the doors and 346 around Mrs. Swisshelm as she spoke. The mob yelled, stoned the house, and fired guns, but did not molest Mrs. Swisshelm personally.

T. H. Barrett, who the year previous had helped me put up the first house east of the Red river in the valley between Breckenridge and Pembina, and who fought the last battle of the Rebellion at the head of his negro troops in Texas ten days after Lee's surrender, was chairman of the committee on resolutions. They were very warmly written. A printing company of forty men was then formed, an agent went to Chicago to buy press and type, and, on May 13th, 1858, No. 9 of the Visitor was finally printed and issued.

From May 13th, 1858, the date of reissue after the destruction of her press, until July 29th, the Visitor was continued. Then a libel suit, with damages fixed at \$10,000, combined with other difficulties that surrounded Mrs. Swisshelm, caused the death of the Visitor. Finally, the press and material were virtually contributed by the people who owned it, Mrs. Swisshelm regained possession, and, in August, 1858, she began the St. Cloud Democrat. In June, 1863, W. B. Mitchell bought the Democrat plant, and in September, 1866, changed its name to the St. Cloud Journal.

### **JANE GREY SWISSELM.**

Jane G. Swisshelm was born December 6th, 1815. Her grandmother, Jane Grey, was a lineal descendant of Lady Jane Grey. She met her husband, James Swisshelm, at a quilting bee dance in Pennsylvania, when she was nineteen, and was married before she was twenty-one. She preferred a literary career; he wanted to keep her in the kitchen. Frequent quarrels resulted. In 1840 she left him, but was afterward reconciled. Finally she left him for good, and a divorce followed. Her parting from Mr. Swisshelm when she started for Minnesota, May 27th, 1857, is pathetically described in her book, "Half a Century," as follows: "My husband, mine no more, came upon the boat while she lay at the wharf, held baby on his knee and wept over her. When the last bell rang, he bade me goodbye; carried her to the gangway, held her to the last moment, then placed her in my arms, sprang ashore and hurried up the wharf."

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Mrs. Swisshelm began her journalistic career in 1842, when twenty-seven years old. She wrote woman's rights and antislavery articles for the Spirit of Liberty at Pittsburg, and when that paper died she wrote for the Pittsburg Commercial Journal, a Whig paper of that city. She was also a frequent contributor to Dr. Bailey's paper, the New Era, of Washington. In 1848 she began a paper of her own in Pittsburg, named the Sunday Visitor. This was also devoted to woman's rights and antislavery. In 1850 she became a staff correspondent of

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the New York Tribune; and in 1857 she came to Minnesota and began the publication of the St. Cloud Visitor, as before stated.

After leaving St. Cloud, she became a hospital nurse in the Union army. She died, a recluse, in a log cabin at Swissvale, Pa.; and her husband followed her three years after, from the old farm within sight of the little cabin in which Mrs. Swisshelm closed her erratic life.

### **THE WINONA TIMES.**

The Times, of Winona, was the seventy-first weekly newspaper established in Minnesota Territory. It was a four-page, seven-column, Democratic sheet, and its first issue was dated January 30th, 1858. J. Ketchum Averill was the proprietor, and Averill and Sam Whiting were the editors.

July 17th, 1858, Whiting abandoned the enterprise, and, as that is the last of it in the Historical Library, it must have died at that time, or soon after. That date is as far as I have been able to trace it. The Times was started with the material of the Winona Argus. The Argus began in December, 1854, and died in the fall of 1857.

### **THE MINNEAPOLIS GAZETTE.**

Upon the death of the Northwestern Democrat in the fall of 1857, its press and type passed into the hands of Joel B. Bassett. February 2nd, 1858, W. F. Russell, of the Shakopee Advocate, purchased the remains and began the Minneapolis Gazette, with Alexander B. Russell as editor. The paper ran only a few months, when the chilly financial weather following 1857 killed it, and the material went back to Bassett. The Gazette was a 348 four-page, eight-column, Republican sheet, and was the seventy-second journalistic venture in Minnesota.

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In September, 1858, what was left of the Gazette was resold to C. H. Pettit and John G. Williams, who started the Minneapolis Journal. The Journal in turn was absorbed by William S. King, May 28th, 1859, when he started the Atlas. The Atlas ran until 1867, when it went into the Minneapolis Tribune, which is still running.

### **THE ROCHESTER FREE PRESS**

was the seventy-third newspaper printed in Minnesota Territory. It was a four-page, seven-column. Republican paper. Its first issue must have been dated February 3rd, 1858, as No. 7 of Volume 1 is in the Historical Library, and dated March 17th, 1858. M. L. Stewart and J. H. Hyatt appear as the publishers in that issue of March 17th, 1858, and they were probably the starters of the paper. The History of Olmsted County claims that these men bought the material of the defunct Olmsted County; Journal, with which to begin the Free Press, but the author places the date of purchase in the winter of 1858, while the files talk as above stated. The St. Paul Pioneer of November 19th, 1857, announces the suspension of the Journal on account of the financial failures following the downfall of the Ohio Life and Trust Company. I find k stated in another place, however, that the Journal caught its second wind and resumed, and that it did not die until June, 1859, when the Free Press under Fred A. Soule absorbed it.

Be this as it may, the files say that on March 31st, 1858, Sortie became editor of the Free Press, and that on August 18th, 1858, Stewart and Hyatt retired and J. R. Drew became publisher. April 14th, 1859, N. B. Robbins, a promising young man, became associated with Soule as editor, but on the first of July following, Robbins was drowned. July 16th, 1859, M. L. Stewart again appeared as publisher. August 20th, 1859, is the last number in the Historical Library. The paper was discontinued about this time, and the Rochester Post succeeded it November 5th, 1859, and was followed by the Rochester News under Blaisdell of the Wasioja Gazette the week after the first number of the Post was issued.

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Blaisdell, it seemed, brought the Gazette 349 plant down to Rochester, to fill the vacancy left by the Free Press, but Blakeley got in with his Post ahead of him.

### **THE SHAKOPEE REPORTER**

was the seventy-fourth newspaper venture in Minnesota. It was started some time in the latter part of March, 1858, as I find that the St. Paul Advertiser of March 27th, 1858, announces its advent. Milton M. Pearce, who a short time before had sold the Traverse des Sioux Reporter to James J. Green, as has already been stated, was the starter of the Shakopee Reporter. I find it quoted by the Glencoe Register, in its issue of June 12th, 1858, and that seems to have been about the last of it.

### **THE NORTHFIELD JOURNAL**

was the seventy-fifth weekly newspaper started in Minnesota Territory. Capt. R. A. Hoag and his brother were the owners. The material came from Cannon Falls, Goodhue county, where it had been used to print the Cannon Falls Gazette. It was moved from Northfield to Rochester in the early sixties and combined, with one of the papers there. The Journal was published in Northfield about three years, and I believe it was the first paper printed in that place.

### **THE HASTINGS DAILY LEDGER.**

As Minnesota became a state on May 11th, 1858, this series of papers will close with the record of the Hastings Daily Ledger, the seventh daily paper in the Territory. It was published in Hastings, and the first number was issued May 10th, 1858. Four pages of five columns each was its size; and, being in Dakota county, it was of course Democratic. It ran a year; then the Hastings Weekly Ledger took its place, and about the following October that paper died. The Hastings Weekly Ledger was the seventy-sixth and last weekly newspaper established in the Territory.



## THE FINAL RESULT.

Of the seventy-six weekly newspapers started in Territorial times, only seven are now living. These are the St. Paul Pioneer, 350 now the Pioneer Press; the Winona; Republican; the Deutsche Zeitung, now the Volkszeitung; Mantorville Express; Red Wing Republican; Wabasha Herald; and Chatfield Democrat, now the News Democrat. Of the seven dailies, only one, the St. Paul Pioneer, now the Pioneer Press, lives. Three of the six weeklies, the Red Wing Republican, the Wabasha Herald, and the Chatfield Democrat, were started in September, 1857; and, so far as I can learn, they each went through that trying financial storm without missing a number.

I have received protests from the present editors of the Freeborn County Standard and Glencoe Register, against excluding them from the above list of surviving Territorial newspapers. The facts regarding these papers are given in the fourth paper of this series. Under the head of the Southern Minnesota Star, I prove that the Star died and was succeeded by the Freeborn County Eagle, with new volume and number. The Eagle then died and the Standard was begun, starting also with Volume I, No. I.

The Glencoe Register died, and Colonel Stevens, its founder, so announced its termination. Then the Glencoe Register No. 2 was started at Volume I, No. I, by James C. Edson; as the Eagle was started by Swineford after the death of the Star, and the Standard by Ruble and Hooker after the death of the Eagle.

Tearing down a house named the Star, and erecting, on new foundations, a new house named the Eagle, and then tearing down the Eagle, and erecting the Standard on other new foundations, does not date the Standard back to either Star or Eagle time, though some of the same material and men were in each. The St. Anthony Express was a Territorial newspaper. It died in 1861, and the press was used to start the Shakopee Argus; but no one has ever claimed that the Argus became a Territorial newspaper on that account. Had the Star become the Star Eagle, and that in turn the Standard-Star, and

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the volume and number been continuous from the first number of the Star, the Territorial line of succession would have been complete. As it is, the line was broken twice, and each time intentionally, and for that reason I must deny that the Standard had Territorial succession; as, under like conditions, I have been compelled to shut out the Glencoe Register and the Stillwater Messenger.

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I believe that I cannot Close this record of the Territorial Journalism of Minnesota in any better way than by copying the following graphic pen picture drawn by J. A. Wheelock, now editor-in-chief of the Pioneer Press and the Nestor of Minnesota Journalism. I quote from the Minnesota Advertiser, the first Minnesota newspaper that Wheelock edited. The date is March 13th, 1858. Speaking of the Journalism of the early fifties, he said:

The journalism of that day, inspired by Goodhue, mirrored the rough time exactly. Even its contentious rivalries were but the coqueties of an exuberant good-nature that lay at bottom. The entire intellectual life of the day ran through the Pioneer and the valetudinarian Chronicle and its successors. The Chronicle, in its weak vicissitudes, was the necessary correlative of the Pioneer—not exactly the Judy to his Punch—but equally essential to the dialogue and the sport. Who shall number the victims of the giant's gambols? There was the venerable Nat, who sought ignoble shelter among the Sioux;—there was Charley, his promise broken on the merciless wheel of his enemy's sarcasm;—the mercurial Smith, of undefined perquisites, model of all future Secretaries, driven mad by bon-mots into a shameful banishment;—and the stately Wakefield, grand with conscious authorship, patient of publication, lashed upon a Pegasus of his own choosing, and sent back, horsed like Mazeppa, into the desert. Memories throng upon us of coarse, genial souls and rough dressed characters, knit together in a jolly, hazy, idle life of whiskey and tobacco.